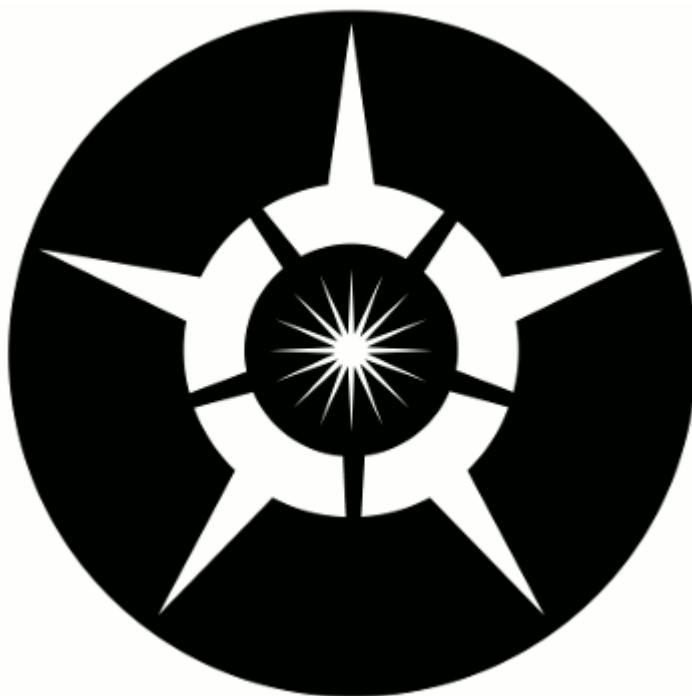


# **Temple of the Jedi Order**



**LITURGICAL BOOK FOR THE JEDI**

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*Note: This is a compilation of Jon's Posts in the forum, and I have left all Credit where he marked and knew. All I have done is compile and format this Version*

# **Chapter 1**

## Feast Days

January 3rd Sunday (1950) - Jedi United Rite Day/World Religion Day  
January 6 - Jedi Knight Master's Day (in remembrance of Allan Watts)  
March 21 (1970) - Jedi Vocations Day/International Earth Day  
April 13 - Pure Land Recollection Day  
May 25 - International Jedi Day  
June 4 - Founder Day (Br. John's Birthday)  
September 11 (2001) - Jedi Remembrance Day (For the living heroes)  
October 25 - Jedi Memorial Day (For the deceased)  
October 31 - Jedi Youngling Day/Pagan Rite Recollection Day  
December 25 (2005) - TOTJO Anniversary Day  
December 31 - Jedi Day of Reflection

### **3rd Sunday of January (1950)- WORLD RELIGION DAY/JEDI RITE DAY**

"The National Spiritual Assembly (of the Baha'is of the United States of America) has instituted an annual World Religion Day to be observed publicly by the Baha'i Communities wherever possible throughout the United States. The Third Sunday of January each year has been designated for this celebration."

"Main focus...the "Manifesto for peaceful, active inter-action among the religions...". It had already been signed by 23 religious communities in Stuttgart. In the manifesto, the communities commit themselves to making every effort to ensure that religion will never be misused for political purposes nor to excuse violence by anything they say or do. It emphasizes the communities' active support for the democratic state in which neither extremism nor fundamentalism is to be given an opportunity to take root. The main aim of the manifesto is the meeting and cooperation of religious communities and the promotion of their mutual understanding."

These facts speak for themselves as to why Jedi identify with this Day and why it is included in the Jediism list of feast days.

### **January 6th - JEDI KNIGHT MASTER'S DAY(in remembrance of Allan Watts)**

Alan Wilson Watts (January 6, 1915 – November 16, 1973) was a British philosopher, writer, speaker, and student of comparative religion. He held both a master's degree in theology and a doctorate of divinity, is best known as an interpreter of Zen Buddhism in particular, and Indian and Chinese philosophy in general for a Western audience.

He wrote more than 25 books and numerous articles on subjects such as personal identity, the true nature of reality, higher consciousness, meaning of life, concepts and images of God and the pursuit of happiness. In his books he relates his experience to scientific knowledge and to the teachings of Eastern(Asia) and Western culture religions or philosophies (Zen Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Hinduism, etc.).

### **March 21th (1970)- INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY/JEDI CREED DAY**

St. Francis and the Birth of Earth Day, By John McConnell

"The global celebration of Earth Day on March 20, the first day of Spring, is a matter directly related to St. Francis and the amazing results of his vision and life. Were he here today, he would undoubtedly focus all his prayer and effort on achieving Earth Day's original purpose.

Earth Day is on the March Equinox, which determines the annual date of Easter. (Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the March equinox.)

Not only that, the equinox is also the New Year in Iran and other Islam countries, which makes possible attention for a common purpose - the sustainable care of Earth, with justice and peace for all.

This will help us show real love for our world neighbors and the web of life that covers our globe.

### **ST. FRANCIS AND THE BIRTH OF EARTH DAY**

The first Earth Day was inaugurated in San Francisco - The City of St. Francis. I had long been familiar with the Prayer of St. Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love..." In 1969 we obtained backing of the Mayor, city officials, churches, schools, businesses - a really all out event with massive coverage in media. While the event was backed by Franciscans and Catholic churches, participation included synagogues and many other denominations. The Red Cross delivered plants to schools for children to take home.

In succeeding Earth Days at the United Nations, we demonstrated that people of diverse creeds and cultures can leave room for their differences and come together for "peace, justice and the care of Earth."

A factor in the choice of the date was my own history. In 1957 I obtained global attention for an editorial in my weekly North Carolina "Toe Valley View" newspaper. The first Sputnik Satellite had just been launched on October 4th. None of the media seemed to note that this was the "Feast Day of St. Francis." And launched by the then Godless USSR! (The person who chose the date must have been a secret Christian.)

My editorial called for a visible "Star of Hope" satellite. It would be launched as a symbol of hope to further understanding and peace on our planet. It obtained front page attention around the world.

My own study and prayer life led to the conviction that we needed a common purpose that would appeal to people of all creeds and cultures - and a way to get attention for it. We needed something that would end history's terrible record of war and injustice.

These thoughts planted the seeds that led to Earth Day.

Another factor was my efforts in 1963 to get global participation in a daily "Minute for Peace." I was responsible for the Minute for Peace on radio world-wide, which followed the period of mourning for President Kennedy. "Peace begins in the mind." We asked for a one minute radio spot on all stations that would carry the sound of a bell and a thought or prayer for peace. We invited all listeners to join in this special minute - to deepen their commitment and increase their efforts for world peace.

Minute for Peace became the centerpiece of Earth Day. When we ring the UN Peace Bell we invite people world wide to join in two minutes of heartfelt prayer that we will overcome "doubt with faith" and strive to be a responsible Trustee of Earth.

Pray that every year St. Francis Day and Earth Day will bring a new sense of identity with the whole human family and a commitment to see peace through understanding and love -- the love that Jesus revealed. And may we put feet to our prayers with action to help make it happen."

-John McConnell

### April 13th- JEDIISM RITE RECOLLECTION DAY

The day, the 13th. 13 is considered taboo or unlucky by almost every superstitious person that lives and was by any superstitious person that has become one with the Force.

"Superstition (Latin *superstitio*, literally "standing over"; derived perhaps from standing in awe; used in Latin as a unreasonable or excessive belief in fear or magic, especially foreign or fantastical ideas, and thus came to mean a "cult" in the Roman empire) is a belief or notion, not \_base\_d on reason or knowledge. The word is often used pejoratively to refer to supposedly irrational beliefs of others, and its precise meaning is therefore subjective. It is commonly applied to beliefs and practices surrounding luck, prophecy and spiritual beings, particularly the irrational belief that future events can be influenced or foretold by specific, unrelated behaviors or occurrences..

To medieval scholars the word was applied to and beliefs outside of or in opposition to Christianity; today it is applied to conceptions without foundation in, or in contravention of, scientific and logical knowledge.

Many extant superstitions are said to have originated during the plagues that swept through Europe. According to legend, during the time of a plague, Saint Gregory I the Great ordered that people say "God bless you" when somebody sneezed, to prevent the spread of the disease."

These superstitions were fueled by primitive religions. Something that the Jediism Rite is definitely NOT. There are no positive holidays on the 13th of any month. We do not follow any other religion, therefore we should not fear their taboos. 13 demonstrates our individuality

### May 25th- INTERNATIONAL JEDI DAY

The International Day of the Jedi is an "annual Star Wars fan holiday", started on the 30th anniversary of the release of the original Star Wars film... The International Day of the Jedi is meant as a celebration of the entire Star Wars saga. The observance of International Day of the Jedi in May coincides with the release months of each Star Wars film. The date of May 25th was selected because the original Star Wars film, A New Hope, was released on May 25, 1977.

### September 11th (2001)- JEDI REMEMBRANCE DAY

"September 11, 2001--a day that will be remembered always. For out of the very worst man was capable of, the very best has been brought forth--through the heroic efforts by firefighters, police and rescue personnel; through the thousands of caring and compassionate volunteers who stepped forward in this time of crisis."

Firefighters and cops stormed up the stairs of the Twin Towers while its occupants helped each other make the long climb down (one man went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was).

People in charge of the city's rescue operations managed to save thousands of people in the World Trade Center.

Americans grieved together and untold citizens lined up to give blood for the people of New York City.

Knowing they were doomed, the passengers from flight 93 stormed the cockpit and prevented the fourth plane's kamikaze attack.

New Yorkers started rebuilding their lives and their businesses almost at once. To quote an article about Europeans caught in Manhattan on that fateful day.

Although standing only dozens of yards from the next to the Twin Towers the small 17th-century chapel in which George Washington had prayed when becoming the nation's first president was entirely spared, with not even a single broken window - naturally, St. Paul's Chapel served to house the wounded and, in the weeks that followed, the workers cleaning up the debris.

### October 25th- JEDI MEMORIAL DAY (for the deceased)

"Brothers and Sisters in the Force...

It is our custom to assemble ourselves each year to honor the lives of those who have shrugged off their physical selves and become one with the Force. As Jedi we do not ask why death has visited us, for we have already been granted the wisdom to understand the answer... death is a natural part of life, a transition from the physical body to the spiritual energy of the Living Force. All life is connected through the Force, and death is merely a transition from the crude physical matter we inhabit to the a pure luminous form. Just as life is drawn from the Living Force upon birth, so does life return to the Living Force upon the transition of physical death. We are thankful for the loving memories of those dear to us who have become one with the Force, and those of us who live on in their absence can take comfort that their presence is still among us, connecting us all through the Force. Remember them as they were in life, for that connection lives on in each and every one of our hearts. Do not mourn for their loss, for they would want us to celebrate instead for the life they lived while among us. "There is no Death; There is the Force." Death is not the end, but only the termination of the phase which we call mortal life... and the beginning of another. The dust of the physical body returns to the earth, but the energy of life rejoins with the Force. Through this knowledge we may call out our Brothers' and Sisters' names and honor their memory, secure in the knowledge that our voices do not travel endlessly throughout time and space, but is heard and understood by them through the Force.

May the Force be with us all

I hold a ceremonial bonfire yearly on October 25th in memory of Jedi, as well as the friends and family of Jedi who have passed on throughout the year. The bonfire is symbolic of the Jedi Funeral Pyre, and I take a piece of parchment for each person memorialized, read the memorial from the Jedi for that person, and then place it in the fire."

### October 31rd- JEDI YOUNGLING DAY/ VOCATIONS DAY

"A vocation as defined in a religious environment is an occupation for which a person is suited, trained or qualified. Often those who follow a religious vocation have a inclination to undertake the work, often called a calling. This type of vocation is either professional or voluntary and can include many different religious backgrounds."

A Jedi Vocation can be seen as fulfilling the spiritual need of a potential Jedi, and explains the specific task for which that Jedi is specifically gifted, and usually implies that this same Jedi in question has a form of "calling" for the task. "The word "vocation" comes from the Latin vocare, meaning "to call"; however, its usage before the sixteenth century, particularly in the Vulgate, refers to the calling of all humankind to

salvation, with its more modern usage of a life-task first employed by Martin Luther."

Apart from its innate seriousness as a Pagan feast day, Halloween presents an opportunity for kids and adults alike. In its liberating spirit this day was chosen to reflect our Jedi Youngling Day and Vocations Day.

It is a day for us to honour our future and pass on our legacy and traditions. A simple tradition of making a child smile, and for one day putting aside all the normal rush and routine and spending time with our future.

### **December 25th- TOTJO ANNIVERSARY DAY**

Today, we not only celebrate TOTJO anniversary but also the community of people who meet here.

Today we are celebrating everyone who visits and are members here no matter what walk of life they may come from nor in what way they may participate.

In the Force each individual is unique in his own image where everyone has different talents. And just like the ingredients in a recipe we all bring different elements into the community.

In addition to celebrating all the different groups and people who are part of our present community, we also remember the people who came before us. We remember the people who founded this Temple years ago and we remember the people who built this Temple site 4 years ago.

The purpose of this remembering is not to dream nostalgically about the past, but to thank the Living Force for the life, work and witness of those people. We remember how they lived and the love and the concern they showed to us, and we acknowledge all of that before Community and Force.

Human relationships are not always easy, and the difficulties we have are part of being human and part of the risk of being a member of a community.

Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be human. Some relationships are easy and some are difficult. Some take a lot of effort and some very little effort.

TOTJO has shown that our relationship to the Force can be like that too: sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's difficult. Sometimes, our relationship to the Force flows swimmingly for weeks, months, or years, and other times we struggle: either with faith, with closeness, or with perceiving the presence of the Force.

But to acknowledge the difficulties as well as the goodness in our relationships is a truthful thing, and an authentic thing. And the best relationships are the ones in which we are free to be truthful and authentic. Because, when we acknowledge our differences, our disagreements and even our faults, we can make amends and start to move forward constructively.

We can learn to forgive and we can learn to be forgiven.

There is one group of people here not mentioned yet. We've mentioned the people who are part of our community today. And we've mentioned the people who have come before us. But we've not mentioned the people who will come after us.

As we think about who we are now and who we want to be in the future, some of us will have different



ideas; I'd be surprised if there wasn't some disagreement, but all of that is OK.

Let us be mindful as we move forward into what is for us a new year, that the Living Force will move with us and give us the strength to continue to be a community which is forgiving and forgiven.

May the Living Force open our eyes and our ears to it's work in our lives and in the world and help us to respond as we are each called.

May The Force Be With Us!

### **December 31st- JEDI DAY OF REFLECTION**

This is a day on which we honour the secular festivity called New Year's Day. We clarify once again in our mind's eye our place in the world and the context we live in. It is a constant reminder that we are given opportunity on each day of the year. So it does not really matter when the year or for that matter the month or week starts. It is the day, it is the now which matters. We want to honour that which the Force has made possible. We as a part of history are still moving with the times. Ironically history is becoming our future.

## **Chapter 2**

### Prayers

## **FOR FUNERALS**

Depart, O soul, out of this present world in which in the name of the Living Force that created you, and rejoin the Unifying Force from which you came. May you rest in peace as you have again become one with the Force.

May the Force strengthen and support us all the day long until the fever of life is over and our work is done. May the Force welcome and grant safe lodging and a holy peace at last.

May the Force grant (remaining family member/s) comfort in the knowledge and sure confidence in it's care. Defend him / her them from the danger of the enemy and keep him/her/them in spiritual peace and safety. May the Force be with you, always.

- Master Justice

## **FOR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN IN WAR**

Living Force of Creation,

We humbly will your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from you.

May The Force Be With Them!

- Master Twsoundsoff

## **FOR MOTHERS**

Most Mysterious and Awesome Living Force of Creation,

We thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all children.

Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in your care and love for her and for her unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Ways, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.

Assist all "spiritual mothers", those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others -- of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human.

We beseech You to send blessings to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on You and your Will, for strength and Understanding.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood.

May The Force Be With Them!

- Master Twsoundsoff

### FOR FATHERS

Most marvelous and unsolved Living Force of Creation,

We thank you for our fathers, those to whom you have entrusted the responsibility to provide loving protection of their families and guidance of their children. We thank you, also, for our Spiritual Fathers, whose spiritual Guidance is so vital to the faith of your people.

May our fathers imitate the courage of all the great historical fathers of the past in providing wise counsel to the children you have given to their care. And may our spiritual fathers be guided by the examples of the Great Masters. Give them valiant faith in the face of confusion and conflict, hope in time of trouble and sorrow, and steadfast love for their families, and for all people throughout the world.

Assist all fathers of families, all spiritual fathers, and all men, that through your understanding they may steadily grow in wisdom and in knowledge and of your Truth. May they generously impart this knowledge to those who rely on them. May their lives be examples to all of heroic faithfulness to your awesome will.

We ask blessing on all those to whom you have entrusted fatherhood. May your guidance constantly inspire them with justice and mercy, wisdom and strength, fidelity and self-giving love. May they receive your wisdom abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal understanding in your presence..

May The Force Be With Them Always!

- Master Twsoundsoff

### FOR VOCATION

For as long as space endures

And for as long as living beings remain

Until then may I too abide

To dispel the misery of the world.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### FOR PROTECTION

The light of The Force surrounds us;

The love of The Force enfolds us;

The power of The Force protects us;

The presence of The Force watches over us.

Wherever we are, The Force is.

And all is well.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### FOR ALL PEOPLE

Living Force of Creation,

help us to see the beauty

that we are, without and within.

Help us to love ourselves, unconditionally, without judgment.  
Your radiance manifests through us and is  
present within and around us at all times.  
Our bodies are Your conduit and a vehicle for Your Work.  
It is therefore deserving of love, respect and honor.

This day and always, help us to honor our bodies,  
to love them unconditionally, and to be grateful for their service.

May The Force Be With Us

- Master Twsoundsoff

### LUMINOUS BEINGS WE ARE...

Luminous Beings are we  
We Answer our call  
The call of the Force  
We answer our call  
Without hesitation  
We answer our call  
While others decry us  
As Freaks,weirdos or Witches  
Yet we persist  
For we have heard our call  
& we have answered it  
The call of the Force  
We suffer the temptations of this Crude Matter  
We suffer through bouts of Anger  
We suffer through bouts of Depression  
At times we feel alone  
But we are never truly alone  
For the Force is always with us  
& it is now I say  
Luminous Beings are We

May the Force be with you  
Jedi Arion Bane 28 FEB 2005  
From the Jedi Sanctuary

- Master Neaj Pa Bol

### THE FORCE SERENITY PRAYER...

(Altered from the serenity prayer)

Force grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change  
Courage to change the things I can  
and wisdom to know the difference

Living one day at a time  
Enjoying one moment at a time  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace.  
Taking, as the force did, this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it

Trusting that the force will make all things right  
if I surrender to it's Will  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy in the force  
forever in the next.

I do not remember who the author for this is, my apologies....

- Master Neaj Pa Bol

### PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Oh mighty Force

That art in every living thing

Its course and movement

Known and the unknown

Seen and the unseen

Here...there...and everywhere in the mystical energy field that surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds the galaxy together

Oh mighty Force, help me to become a better Jedi Knight

And not always to seek adventure and excitement

For the Jedi crave not these things

Instead, help me to learn the ways of the Force, that I may do thy work, to exercise a strong influence over the weak minded, perform many somersaults and handstands in thy name, ye, and with all else but death become a Jedi Knight, to have the deepest commitment, and the most studious mind

Teach me not to try, but to do, or do not, to unlearn what I have learned, and to finish what I begin.

Though that I am reckless, help me to complete my training so that I may become a Guardian of Peace, and Justice, and to forgive those that have become agents of evil...seduced by the Dark Side of the Force, guide my steps with wisdom so that I might not be tempted to join them, for once we start down the Dark Path, forever will it dominate our destiny, ye, teach me to use the force for knowledge and defense, never for attack, for verily thou art my ally, and a powerful ally thou art

Abiding in the great mystery it is ours to comprehend

Forever and ever oh Force, may thou be with me, always...

- Jedi Knight Lenje

### FOR PERSONAL GROWTH

You, Protector of all beings,  
Great destroyer of our hosts of demons,  
Please, O Living Force, Knower of All,  
Come to this place with your company.

### FOR DEDICATION

Through the virtues I have collected  
By practising the stages of the Jedi doctrine,  
May all living beings find the opportunity  
To practise in the same way.

However many living beings there may be  
Experiencing mental and physical suffering,  
May their suffering cease through the power of my practise,  
And may they find everlasting happiness and joy.

May everyone experience  
The happiness of humans and gods,  
And quickly attain enlightenment,  
So that suffering is finally extinguished.

For the benefits of all living beings as extensive as space,  
May I attain great wisdom,  
Great compassion,  
Great Power.

May there never arise in this world  
The miseries of incurable disease, famine or war,  
Or the dangers of earthquakes, fires,  
Floods, storms, and so forth.

May all beings meet precious teachers,  
Who reveal the way to enlightenment,  
And through engaging on this path  
May they quickly attain the ultimate peace of full enlightenment.

### FOR HOPE

Living Force,  
I am lost as to where to go.  
I cannot see the way ahead.  
I cannot know for certain where it will lead.  
Who am I?  
Just because I think I trust in Your will,

does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that my desire to be mindful of You,  
does in fact envelope all life with Your positive energy.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this,  
You will lead me on the right way,  
though I may not know anything about it.  
Therefore, I will trust you always,  
although I may seem to be lost  
and walk in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for You are always with me,  
and You will never leave me to face darkness alone.

### **OF COMPASSION**

Through wisdom which I gain through giving  
and other virtues,  
May I become a Jedi for the benefit of all.

### **FOR FREEDOM**

May everyone be happy,  
May everyone be free from misery,  
May no one ever be separated from their purpose in life,  
May every one have presence of mind, free from hatred and attachment.

### **OF CONSOLATION**

Breath into me creative Force,  
that my thoughts may all be focused.  
Move in me, creative force,  
that my work too, may be focused.  
Attract my heart, embracing Force,  
that I may love only what is in you.  
Strengthen me, embracing Force,  
that I may defend all that is in you.  
Protect me, universal Force,  
that I always may be with you.

May the Force be with me.

### **FOR VOCATIONS**

Loving universal Force,  
it is You who call us by name  
and ask us to follow You.  
Help us to grow in the Love  
and Service of our Temple  
as we experience it today.



Give us the necessary energy and courage  
to build a future

Grant us faithful leaders  
who embrace Your Mission  
of love and justice.

Bless Temple of the Jedi Order  
by calling dedicated and generous leaders  
from our families and friends  
who will serve Your people as Sisters,  
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better  
and open our hearts  
to hear Your call.

May the Force be with us always.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

Almighty and Eternal Force,  
You are the everlasting health of those who trust in You.  
Hear us for Our sick brother/sister (N...)  
for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy,  
that being restored to bodily health,  
s/he may give thanks to You.

May the Force be with him/her.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED**

Living Force of Creation,

We bring to you the needs of the poor and the marginalized.

We know that these are one with you, whose essence breathes justice, whose nature is ever ready to feed the hungry. We ask simply, that you be one with us at heart.

Fill us with your compassion, lend us your eyes to see, boldness and selflessness and wisdom, so that we too might cry out for justice and feed the hungry, so that your light might shine throughout the earth.

Living Force of Creation,

we especially bring to you the children among us who are poor and marginalized, finding themselves in circumstances they did not choose and helpless to change. We lift up AIDS orphans, children of war, children suffering abuse and neglect, children smitten with malnutrition and disease, lacking education, housing or the most basic of life's necessities. Might they somehow come to know your love, who knows each hair on their head and collects their tears.

Until that day, let us be tireless in doing what is good and what is right unto the least of these, knowing your love for them.

May the Force be with them.

### THANKSGIVING

Living Force of Creation

I thank you for the wonders of this universe  
the joy of knowing that I am one with all life  
that I am here now through you  
and can observe and influence those around me  
just as you influence me

Help me to greater appreciate the life I have  
and the things others have to offer me  
and the things I have to offer to others  
Living Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be  
to do what I should do

May the Force be with me  
and with us all

- Master Sarus

### FOR UNDERSTANDING

Guide my hand and mind as I seek the knowledge  
To learn and unlearn that which I know.  
Guide me in ways to learn that which I don't know  
But seek to understand.  
For it is from understanding that we come closer  
To the Force and what can be done.

Let this knowledge lift up those and me  
As we continue our path.

- Master Tiamat

### PRAYER OF HEALING

Everlasting Force, essence of life.

this being before me, a child of the force, has been harmed,  
the sickness may grow,  
the body grows weak,  
Use me, a servant in a time of need as an avatar of your power,  
Send through me the healing flow of the force,  
Restore them to health  
Heal the wounds,

strengthen the mind,  
Help me care for them as a brother/sister in the Force.

- Master Zanthan Storm

### PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS

Force, you flow through all living things,  
I ask for strength of body and mind to defend my country with honor and wisdom,  
I ask for forgiveness for being away from my family,  
for I miss them every day and yearn to be with them,  
I ask for the wisdom to know right and wrong even in the midst of battle,  
I will endeavor to keep the force in me and with me at all times,  
for these I promise to do my best, my duty, to my country and my fellow man.

- Master Zanthan Storm

### PERSONAL PRAYER TO THE FORCE

My friend, my partner, the force,  
I pray for strength, for there are days when I must bear the weight of the world,  
I pray for wisdom, to guide my actions  
I ask you to be within me always, for without the connections you bring I could not serve,  
I serve life, because from life springs joy,  
Where there is darkness, I will bring light,  
Where there is indignity, I will bring honor,  
Where there is death, I will bring preservation of life,  
I seek these things in life around me,  
I therefore ask them for myself as well,  
So that I may be an example of duty, honor, valor, friendship to all,  
allow me this confidence, I pray, so I may be better than I am today.

- Master Zanthan Storm

### TO RESPOND TO THE CALL OF A JEDI (of ones self or others)

Feel the force within you, connect to its flow and shower yourself or those you bless with it.

This world is a dangerous place,  
full of danger to the body, mind and soul  
many seek greed, selfishness, criminality and power  
they take them from others,  
There are those who will fight these powerful forces  
They are known as Jedi  
armed with a strength of character, an unyielding will,  
and most of all The Living Force,  
They use the force to help those less fortunate,  
To you do rise to this call,  
May the Force Be with you always,  
Strengthening your will, your faith and your devotion to good,

Accept this blessing and go forth knowing the Living Force goes with you.

- Master Zanthan Storm

## **Chapter 3**

### Blessings

### **BLESSING FROM THE FORCE**

Come, Living Force of Creation,  
almighty Sanctifier,  
Power of love,  
who envelopes all life with positive energy,  
come and sanctify us.  
Replace the tensions within us with righteous peace.  
Replace the fears within us with quiet confidence.  
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of respect.  
Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth.  
Replace the night within us with Your consoling light.  
Fill our emptiness.  
Dull the edge of our pride.  
Sharpen the edge of our humility.  
Let us see ourselves as You see us,  
Let us see others as You see them.  
Enlighten our minds,  
strengthen our wills,  
purify our consciences,  
rectify our judgment,  
set our hearts on fire,  
and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting Your inspirations.  
Teach us to see Your design in all of creation.

May the Force be with us always.

- Master Jon

### **OPEN CLOSED MINDS**

Let mind and body soar;  
To heights not reached before;  
Let limits stretch;  
That you may catch;  
A new truth to explore.

- Br. John+

### **A BLESSING... (Taken from an Irish Blessing)**

Travel light in life;  
take only what you need;  
a loving family,  
good friends,  
simple pleasures,  
someone to love,  
and someone to love you;  
take enough to eat, enough to wear,  
and a little more than enough to drink;

for thirst is a dangerous thing.

- Master Neaj Pa Bol

### OF THE HOME

Before beginning, and you may pick and choose from the following, such as "shaking the dust off your boots", and/or anointing the main doorway with either oil or Holy Water, the windows, the boundary of the property.

Most gracious spirit of the living Force of creation,  
I ask that you rest upon this home.  
Bless and keep all those that pass through its door and  
keep out all those meaning to do harm.

Let the warmth of love and compassion fill this home  
in the winter.

As the inhabitants focus their lives on the Jedi code,  
may your guiding light help them to also focus on each other.

May your blessings be upon them for the answers to their prayers:  
(children, business, health, bringing other family members, et. al.)

May you bring Peace, knowledge, serenity, and harmony and  
be a force within those that live here so that they bring those  
things to those around them.

- Master Serric

### BLESSING FROM THE FORCE

Come, Living Force of Creation,  
almighty Sanctifier,  
Power of love,  
who envelopes all life with positive energy,  
come and sanctify us.  
Replace the tensions within us with righteous peace.  
Replace the fears within us with quiet confidence.  
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of respect.  
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Let us see others as You see them.  
Enlighten our minds,  
strengthen our wills,  
purify our consciences,

rectify our judgment,  
set our hearts on fire,  
and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting Your inspirations.  
Teach us to see Your design in all of creation.

May the Force be with us always.

#### AT THE END OF CEREMONIES

May the sunlight warm your face,  
so that stranger, friend or kin may find comfort.  
And may that light shine from your heart,  
like a candle set in the porch of a house,  
inviting the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

May the rain pour upon your Spirit,  
and wash away your sorrows.  
And may its pools reflect the greatness of creation,  
revealing its beauty all the days of your life.

May the wind be always at your back,  
blowing new strength into your being.  
And may its whistle fill your heart with gladness,  
sounding over the roofs of mountains for ever after.

May the earth keep you steadfast,  
soft under your feet as you pass along its paths.  
And may it cradle you gently as you lie out on it,  
tired at the end of day.

May the Force be with you in everything you do.

#### A BLESSING FROM LIFE

May the powers of the one Living Force:  
the source of all creation,  
all-pervasive,  
omnipotent,  
eternal;  
May the powers of the Moon,  
Shadow maker and shadow breaker,  
Puller of seas, ruler of man and woman;  
May the powers of the Sun,  
envigorator of all nature,  
source of warmth and life;  
May the Stones,  
the foundation for the material world,  
the bones of the earth;



May the powers of the heavens above,  
a muse for dreams,  
a messenger of despair;  
May the powers of the Earth below,  
a dark mirror without reflection,  
a muse for personal creativity;  
bless this place,  
this time,  
and I who am with You.

#### OF A NEW BORN

Living Force of Creation,  
Bless this child and this his/her day  
Of great potential.  
Smile upon this child  
And embrace this child,  
Living Force of Creation,  
In the caring arms of your love.  
Teach this child to trust your promptings,  
And to live life in the ways of  
Peace, love, pardon, faith, hope light and joy.

#### OF A NEW BORN AND FAMILY

"May the Force Bless your home  
All who live there  
And all who visit there.  
May your home be filled  
With the Force`s love and the love  
You share with one another.  
May peace, harmony, and laughter  
Be yours in abundance  
As long as you live.  
May you have all the happiness  
Your heart can hold.  
May friends and Jedi

Watch over the newborn,  
The growing sons and tender daughters,  
And all your kith and kin.  
May your home tend the sick,  
Rest the weary, comfort the dying,  
Calm the suffering, pity the afflicted,  
Protect the joyous ones.  
May the Force Bless your home  
With His presence  
Until you reach your final home – Netherland of the Force"

## **Chapter 4**

### Meditations

## TO HEAL

Take a comfortable seated or lying position, and take several deep breaths to begin the focusing process.

I find this the easiest way to do this sort of meditation.....Begin with deep breathing, in through the nose for a slow 3 count, hold it for a slow 3 count, and exhale through the mouth on a slow 3 count. Concentrate on feeling the air enter, fill, and then leave your body. Once you have relaxed your body and mind, focus on collecting your good energy, or at least part of it, into a little ball of light.

Next, you want to focus on the person you wish to send the positive energy too, all the while keeping with the slow three count breathing pattern. Once you have a good picture of the person in your mind, take that little ball of positive energy that you have felt build in yourself, and focus on sending that little ball into the person you wish to aid in healing. This is for when you cannot be near the person that you wish to help.

If you are with the person, keep your hand(s) near the person, just above, or on the person in question, and focus on collecting that same positive energy, only this time, focus on bringing it from your center, and sending it down your arms, and into the other person.

Always maintain the breathing, and concentrate as best you can only on the energy, and then the passing of that energy to the other person, and maintain your slow 3 count breathing the entire time.

- Master Schaun

## TO BROADEN THE MIND

Enter for a moment  
into Sacred Time and Space,  
into a way of seeing that is broad and spacious.  
See this Day, from the time you arose this morning  
until you sleep this evening, as one Ceremony,

divided into small and familiar rituals,  
your Heart as the Altar.  
You, part of the Cycles of Light and Darkness.

Now begin to see your Life,  
from the moment of your Conception  
until the time of your Death  
as one long, continuous Ceremony,  
filled with many rituals,  
some familiar, some unknown and challenging.  
Your Home and all Your Relations, the Altar.  
You, part of many Seasons and Cycles.

Now see this Ceremony of your Life  
as part of a much larger Ceremony that extends  
Seven Generations into the Past and Seven into the Future,  
made up of many Births and Deaths.  
This beautiful spinning Earth the Altar.  
You, part of the great Ebb and Flow.

Now, if You will, imagine this larger Ceremony  
to be but one part of a Ceremony so grand,  
so magnificent as to be hardly comprehensible,  
a great, vast Ceremonial Circle, rich and vibrant  
with millions upon millions of swirling  
Circles of Dancing Light,  
and You, one of those Dancing Circles,  
a Dancer on the Altar that is the Universe,  
where Time is Eternal.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### **TO RESTORE THE SOUL**

Choose a scenic picture of nature that is appealing to you. Focus on it for several moments. Notice the colors, the shapes, the texture and the tone the scene depicts to you. Sense the mood the picture evokes. And finally become aware of the emotions you feel as you gaze at the picture. As you gaze deeply at the picture, your mind will let go of all other thoughts. Now close your eyes as you begin your meditation.

While keeping the picture you have chosen in your mind, begin to give attention to your breathing. Bring you breathing to a slow steady pace. Each inhalation is longer. Then a pause, then a long slow exhalation. Continues

Inhale! exhale!

Remember the picture you chose. Go into the scene. Place yourself in the middle of that picture. Remain there for a few moments. You are comfortable in the place you have selected and feel safe and relaxed enough to let your feelings show themselves.

Where did each feeling come from? What is the source of the feelings?

Each needs to be felt in such a way that you can almost hold it in your hand like a cherished possession. Close your heart around each feeling and hold it dear. It is yours. It is part of you and should be loved. Now all of the feelings are combined in one. This one feeling sits calmly within your heart and soul. It is felt as love – love of all living things.

Relax peacefully for the moment. Allow the feeling to linger.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### **FOR GUIDANCE OF THE SPIRIT IN THE FORCE**

Allow your body to gently relax. Move yourself around on your chair until you feel perfectly comfortable. Now I want you to move your attention DOWN from your head to your chin and DOWN from your chin to your throat and DOWN from your throat to your chest. DOWN, DOWN to your stomach.

Now move down into that safe place deep within yourself, that place which is just below your navel. This is your sacred sanctuary, a place that only you know about.

From that place, I want you to move into the hallway in your mind. Along the hallway are many doors. One particular door is of golden light. You feel drawn by that door and you move through the door of light into a place of peace, comfort and protection.

Once through the door, you find yourself on a path through the woods. As you move along the path, you faintly hear the sound of water. Birds sing in the trees. The sunlight filters through the canopy of deep, green trees overhead. A warm, gentle breeze caresses your face and blows lightly through your hair. You feel as if you are being kissed by God. The smell of the forest and of wild flowers surrounds you, bathing you in an essence so sweet and so wild that your senses are reeling.

You come to a body of water. Because it is part of the enchanted forest, this water is pure, clean and clear. It is cool and inviting. You sit on the edge of the bank and dip your cup into the sacred water and you drink. You are comforted and refreshed.

You arise and continue moving on your path through these wondrous woods. Soon you come to a clearing in the trees. The clearing is surrounded by stately oaks, their branches extended to protect you. The color of the wild flowers stands out strong against the greens of the grasses and the brown-black of the tree barks. You breathe deeply of the sweet air. You know this place, you've been here before. Maybe in your dreams or maybe in life - it doesn't matter. You just know that it is your haven.

There is wonderful, soft green grass growing here and it invites you to sit down and rest. Now you begin to hear in the distance other-worldly music, Tibetan bells flute music soft chanting. You listen carefully, as you feel drawn to the music.

You look up and see purple mountains in the distance. As you look, a tiny golden Light appears. It draws closer and closer to you. It floats gently up the path toward your little sanctuary. Its light is soft and gentle. Yet it shines with a brilliance you have never seen.

As it reaches the outer edge of your sanctuary, it stops and becomes a large pulsating crystalline light. You watch. You wait. You give the light permission to enter your space.

The light draws forward and hovers just before you. The Light shimmers. Soft strands of gold stream forth

like a flower blossoming. As each petal of this light unfolds, you see that something or someone is inside.

Then you see before you a wondrous being that you recognize as your spirit guide. You know it is your spirit guide because you feel a strong surging of love pouring out from it to you and you feel, deep in your heart, a strong answering outpouring of love from you to it. You feel completely safe with this being. It may or may not tell you its name, but it calls you by your name.

Spirit Guides will take any form that you need to understand right now. It can be in the form of a human, an animal, an object or some divine form. See it! imagine it! Know it is real!

What form is your spirit guide in? What shape is it? If it is human, is it male or female? What does it smell like? What color is it? What does it feel like?

Begin to carry on a conversation with this wondrous being. Ask its name. What is its purpose? Why has it come to you?

Let this being communicate itself to you and tell you why it is working with you. Ask it for its help and guidance. Ask your guide what you need to know about your life at this time. Tell your guide anything that is disturbing to you at this time. Ask it how best to call upon it in the future.

Ask it to let you know it is there, consciously, within the next few days, whenever you need help.

When you feel finished, thank your guide for the opportunity to meet and work with it.

As the golden light folds back up around your guide, send it off with your best thoughts and love. As it withdraws from your space, moving back up the path, you sit back down in your spot. You understand that in this inner sanctuary you invite any and all of your guides into your awareness.

This is exciting and you are fascinated with your experience, your experience of expanding your horizons. You breathe deeply, relaxing and reliving in your mind, what has happened. BREATHE.

As you do so, the path and the woods begin to fade and you find yourself gently coming back to the present; to this room, this time and this place. When you are ready, be sure to drink some water and maybe eat a slice of bread to ground yourself.

Right now, it would be helpful to you if you wrote down all you have experienced, exactly as it happened.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### **MEDITATION IN NATURE**

First to relax you body flex each muscle in order, start from the very bottom muscles, your toes, then feet, then ankles, calves, shins, knees, etc until you are all the way up to you head and flex every muscle you know of in you head and face.

From here I start the actual meditation by sitting with my back straight and against something, my right hand holding my left facing upwards. Then depending on my mood and where I am (I meditate on the bus occasionally) I do the breathing exercise with my eyes open or closed. I breath in and out counting to ten a few time, usually about three to make sure I am good and focused, if I loose focus I start counting again until I reach ten.

Once relax sufficiently I envision a wide open field where I am sitting facing a bridge, often it has a oriental arch overhead. Feel the Earth beneath you, the grass and cool soil. Slowly stand and feel the warmth from the sun all around you, shining down like only the sun can. Feel the air as it drifts down from some local mountains and the a forest, brushing past you as if you are part of the scenery. Slowly walk to the bridge, feel the earth beneath you feet, smell the air coming from the mountains and forest. You climb out onto the bridge and look over the edge, you see some water maybe a foot deep, it is clear and calm as it maneuvers around the few stones that protrude here and there. Now focus on the things you do not want, the things within yourself that need to be worked on and perhaps things and people in your life you wish gone. Let each one of them come to the surface within you and let them fall from you into the water, the water will not destroy these things but will carry them away to be transformed into something better. Have patience and know that the world has taken these things from you and will do all it can. From here travel to the forest where you find a small path leading threw the tall ancient trees. See flowers growing to the sides of this path and small batches of sunlight glistening threw gaps in the canopy. After a short distance you come to where the river emerges from the earth, you see rocks all around. You go over to the rocks and sit enjoying the sounds of the river and the forest. Some animals emerge to see who has come to visit them, their curiosity brings them close. Suddenly a being emerges from the top of the Rivers mouth, this is your guide in this world. It may come in any shape, size, race, or color, it may be mythical or real. It comes and sit with you for a time, you may talk to it and ask it anything you like and it will respond. After you talk with your guide thank it and bid it farewell as well as any creatures that may still be around. As you leave the forest world you may slowly walk back to your body, threw the forest and over the bridge. Return from whence you came.

Once you are back in your body open your eye but relax. Slowly come back into reality, some have trouble with snapping back to fast so take things slowly.

- Master Anora^una\_Illahorn

### **BREATHING AND RELAXATION**

Find yourself a quit place where you can be alone and undisturbed for awhile. You can do this exercise while you are sitting, or lying down. If you are sitting down, sit in such a way as to keep you back straight.

Close your eyes and take several real deep breaths to release the tension in your body. Then try to breathe as slow and deeply as you can without discomfort. As time goes by you will be able to consciously breath slower. Slow breathing is a plus when you meditate.

The breathing will be abdominal breathing. Concentrate on your abdomen raising and lowering as you breathe in and out. That's all you do her for now, just concentrate on your breathing in and out.

If you are good at visualizing, then close your eyes and see your abdomen raising and falling in your mind's eye. Try to see it in color, and try experiencing all the sensation of it in your mind. If you cant visualize it yet, then don't worry about that. You will learn that later.

Master the breathing and relaxation techniques in this forum before you move on to the next kind of meditation, which will be some kind of mindfulness exercise.

- Master Jack

### **ON BREATHING**

Let's discuss some breathing exercises you can start right away. The exercises are Hara exercises.



What's Hara you ask? "The vital centre of the self, the focus of existence. The hara designates the part of the lower abdomen and pelvis region near the genital organs. It is an area located one and a half inch below the navel and one and a half inches inward toward the spine. This point also happens to be the body's central axis (centre of gravity / balancing point) . The word hara literally translated means belly. Energy (chi) is stored in the hara where it is heated before spreading throughout the body - hence a warm glowing feeling.

Energy may also be directed at will to whatever task is undertaken. The hara may be considered as being a boiler in a powerhouse, or a storage heater in your home. When it is working it pumps heat into a room, but when it is not doing so - during an off-peak period -then it stores heat within itself to be used at a later time. This is exactly the same principle by which inner power works. You give yourself time to relax, then you use that period to conserve and store further energy. As all energy is heat, you will readily understand the relationship." (as written by Karlfried Graf Durckheim)

Start sitting Indian style, If you can't that's OK. Just sit with your back erect in a chair. Your posture is very important to your success. Rest your hands Gently on your knees palms down. You will be focusing the breath into your belly. Try to not lift your shoulders, But rather imagine to air as smoke being pulled down into your belly. Let your stomach expand and contract with each breath. Breath slowly and gently through your nose for a count of 5. You should feel your abdomen fill first, Then your lower ribs, And last, Your upper ribs. While inhaling place your tongue on the roof of your mouth while inhaling and holding breath. Now hold that breath for another 5 seconds.

Now let your tongue fall as you gently exhale through your mouth. As you breath in and out try to visualize the smoke starting to glow in your belly. After a few minutes start to see the smoke making it's way down your legs, And then up your torso until your whole body is filled with white/golden smoke. Make sure you fill your lungs completely with each breath empty them at exhale. There you go. Nice and easy. I do this every morning before starting my yoga, and every night before my last "hello sun" set of yoga postures. If you want to take it a step further, Try this. When your to the point of seeing the glowing smoke all through your body, start to listen to your body. Here your heart beat, The rhythm of blood flow, The rhythm of your breaths.

Listen to the thoughts running through your head. Listen to the things your senses are telling you. Your sight, hearing, and smell. make sure at this point you don't close your eyes. Now start to "Turn off" the outside stimuli. Not pretend it's not there mind you, Just accept it and move past it. after your no longer distracted by the outside world, We move to the inner one. All those thoughts we mentioned earlier? Start to shut them off one by one until your left with your body. Do the same with your body functions until your left with just your heartbeat and breath. Now slowly.....slowly....sink past even your own heartbeat until your left with just a breath.....a whisper.....you are void of thought.....of desire.....BREATH.....breath.....breath.....breath.....until there's not even your breath to hear.....

I should add that breathing is a form of meditation in itself. If you feel stress or anger, Try taking a step back, Take a long, Slow, deep breath, Hold it for 5 seconds, And let it go. As you exhale drop your shoulders and feel the tension leave your body. Repeat until the tension is gone.....Now wasn't that easy.

- Master Merin Kyo Den

### **TO REDUCE STRESS AND CLEAR THE MIND**

Create a quiet place. Sit comfortably in a chair. Both feet touching the ground. Your arms may rest on the chair. Your hands in your lap. Close your eyes. Pause a moment. Begin to be aware of your breathing.

Inhale!

Exhale!

Allow each inhalation to be slower, longer. There's almost a pause before you exhale. Slowly longer.

Inhale!

Exhale!

Your body will sink deeper into the chair. As you relax, your body will feel heavier and very still.

Inhale!

Exhale!

If your mind begins to wander, return to consciously paying attention to your breathing.

You will become aware that your mind is clear. No busy clutter interferes with your ability to relax.  
Quietness envelops you.

Inhale!

Exhale!

Continue this as long as you are able. Some days it will be as long as half an hour. Others, it may only be five or ten minutes. Whichever, you will feel refreshed from the brief pause.

As you end your meditation, you will feel yourself almost awakening. Pause.

Sit still a moment. Take several deep breaths and return to whatever activity awaits. You are ready.

Any time during the day, remember how good you felt during your meditation. You will begin to automatically be able to return to that mind-body sense of peace. You will touch it with your mind whenever you need to.

Use this meditation every day. Eventually it will lead you to deeper meditations.

### ON PAIN

"Meditating on pain is like kissing a frog. When you accept it, it changes"

-Eric Harrison

By means of Meditation, we can learn to observe the pain without getting influenced by its emotional aspects. We direct our attention to the experience of discomfort and try to welcome this as a challenge instead of something painful. This gives us a chance to observe our automatic reactions and the process of losing our concentration and getting irritated. Observe how body and mind react to each other. Learn to accept the discomforts and learn to remain relaxed while experiencing them. When you accept the pain,

its character and its intensity change. The emotional side disappears into the background and the physical pain remains. The sensation of the pain itself is often much easier to accept than all possible thoughts of doom, emotional pains, fears, and frustrations that are caused by our brain. In Meditations, to combat pain, the pain itself becomes the object of Meditation. Instead of suppressing the pain or fighting it, you try to welcome the pain and to accept it. All your attention goes to your pain and you try to research the area of pain like an investigator. Kabat Zinn advises you to ask yourself, when you are in the centre of the pain, how bad the pain really is. In many cases, according to him, you will discover that it is quite bearable. As is the case with any Meditation, we try not to judge, we try not to get angry with ourselves when things do not go so well, and we try not to be too goal-oriented. Let us begin!

#### Pain Meditation Exercise

1. Sit down, close your eyes, and focus all your concentration on your breathing.
2. Be aware of every breathing in and every breathing out.
3. Let your breathing be something automatic. Do not try to steer it.
4. If you feel a little nervous, first do a normal Concentration Meditation.
5. When you are relaxed enough, you can start the Pain Meditation.
6. Try to investigate, to feel, and to experience the pain area.
7. Use your breathing to relax the area.
8. Play with the pain by means of concentration and curiosity.
9. Go further and further to the centre of the pain. When the discomfort becomes bigger, take more distance and vice versa.
10. Keep your breathing loose and free. Do not be achievement-oriented or tense as if you are at the dentist's.
11. Pay attention to what goes through your mind when you concentrate on your pain.
12. Let the pain be as it is.
13. Before you stop, it is advisable to continue with the Meditation with which you had started the Pain Meditation to get relaxed.
14. Then slowly take your attention back to the rest of your body and the sounds in the room. Move a little, stretch your muscles, and open your eyes.

#### ELEMENTAL MEDITATION- WATER

For each person it will be different for the elemental meditation. You must combine the element with the 5th element, that of the body and mind.

For water, it is best to be floating or semi submerged that allows for breathing. Allow the water to wash over you, taking with each wave or movement the stress, emotions, etc... From this point with each breath your mind becomes clear and you are able to combine the element water with your mind to continue the meditation until it is over. It can last between 15 minutes for those that are new to meditation to as long as the mind and elements need to complete the meditation.

#### ELEMENTAL MEDITATION- WIND

Find a place from traffic, people, etc.. an open field works well. Sit down or lie down in the field and take in the surroundings. Let the wind blow around, through, and on you. Breathe evenly and focus your mind with each blow and feel of the wind. Through and during this meditation both the subconscious and conscious mind will flow with the mind, and some even feel a slight sense of displacement spiritually and mentally. Don't fight this displacement but continue to flow with the wind. In time your senses will be highly heightened. Gather all that you can from this meditation and continue to flow with the wind. The connection will remain even after the meditation is complete.

### **ELEMENTAL MEDITATION- FIRE**

Fire an element that is used in light and dark. A source that rages with illumination, warmth and fuel.

take a seat in a relaxing chair or comfortable position. Light a candle in a darkened room. Take several cleansing breaths and focus on the flame in front of you. Open your mind and soul to the warmth illuminated by the flame. As the warmth encompasses you, close your eyes while mentally picturing the flame. During the meditative state allow the flame in your mind to grow and expand. Through this the body relaxes, the mind opens up, and the flame uplifts the soul with warmth and illumination. Some may feel like apart of them is swaying in tune the flame, this is natural and to be expected.

### **ELEMENTAL MEDITATION- EARTH**

Go to the woods, forest, or find a tree. Sit against or lie against the tree, control your thoughts, emotions and mind. Slowly relax through breathing, sinking more into the ground and tree. Take in the smells of the earth, tree, leaves, and saps, from this your body will become slowly rigid. Don't fight this, slowly go with it, don't force it either. For it is this that one becomes with the tree and ground around it. The connection of the Force. The energy that you see, feel, and obtain is that of the tree and elements around it. Let it flow into your meditation. Your mind and soul are free, yet your body remains rigid, you senses heightened and free to feel the birds that land on the branches or the wind that blows through the leaves.

## **Chapter 5**

### Sermons

## EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING

Despite their destructive power natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires or earthquakes never fail to captivate us. Their destructive power appears out of no where, destroying man or animal or plant alike, only to disappear just as it had popped up. Modern technology such as television, Internet, radio or the press has made room for such fascination, by providing the safety of passive long distance viewing. As many here have experienced in recent months to be there is a completely different story. These people have learned to respect that which passive viewers could never understand. The difference between these people is the difference between the plod of everyday life and a life turned upside down. But one lesson from which no one is spared is the reminder of the mortality of our very existence.

There is another power, a creative power of an altogether different dimension and magnitude which fills our lives as Jedi. It is this power which also changes lives. The Force! A Power which fills great and small, men and women alike. It fills our hearts and minds opening them up to a greater universe beyond. Nothing can prepare us for the power of it's world shattering enlightenment, no books, videos, lectures, teachings... To be caught by the fire of the Force means to have to stand in its path. Only this way can your world be turned upside down in a moment. This surge of Creative Force however unifies more powerfully than any of the above mentioned natural powers can tear apart.

To have lain in the wake of the Force means to experience a new world through new eyes. No longer are there separate peoples with different cultures and languages but Jedi who understand and speak the same language. Lives are irrevocably changed others lives and our lives. Hearts are broken open to a new dimension of relationship. There is no limit to the horizon of the Force. As "victims" to the devastating power of the Force Jedi see things differently, know things differently, hear things differently, and are driven into the world to share what they see, and know, and hear.

May the Force be with us all.

## ON PATIENCE AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

"Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes." It's a sentence we all know. Famous orders given to colonial troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill as the colonial soldiers stood fast, watching a giant sea of red walking toward them, bayonets fixed. I would imagine that the anticipation was nearly sickening. But what was meant by the words, don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes? Do you think that it literally meant to hold your fire until the enemy was that close? Possibly. But I would rather think that the officer in

charge of saying this phrase was telling his men to bide their time, and wait for the opportune moment to attack. Don't waste time, and energy (not to mention ammunition) by trying to rush things. Pick your shots, and make sure that they count. Certainly you've heard someone during your life say something along the lines of, "Don't buy the first car that you drive." This follows the same principle. You've gotta wait until you find the one that best suits your needs. One that feels comfortable. One that you can trust to take you from where you are, to where you need to be, safely and reliably. Sound familiar?

One very important factor in our spiritual growth is the attitude that we use to approach it. Attitude can be both a tool, and a hindrance, depending on a person's views when taking on things such as training, study, meditation, waiting to be taken as an apprentice, etc. Someone with a positive outlook on his or her spiritual advancement will have a much easier time of accepting the ever-important myths of faith and the words of others, as opposed to someone who grows impatient rapidly or views things in a negative light. Nothing worth having comes easily or immediately.

If you believe that you are a Jedi, then you are a Jedi. Plain and simple fact. However, if you wish to study and become a Knight, Senior Knight, or even a Master, then you must walk down a long and difficult path.

You must study. You must listen to your fellow Jedi. You must listen to yourself. You must complete assignments. You must contribute to the study of your brethren. In doing all of this, you must be patient. This will take time. You must trust in yourself and your teachers. You have to KNOW that you are going to do this. You must create positive habits that will help you reach your goals. Habits that will help you understand that becoming a Jedi Knight is not what someone teaches you, but what you learn. Even our Masters continue to learn and grow on a daily basis, and some have been Masters for several years.

Becoming an apprentice does not guarantee that you will become a Knight. Once you become an apprentice you will have to believe that all of the assignments that you are doing are worthwhile. And you can't give up when things get tough, either. And trust me, my friend, things will get tough. It all falls back to your attitude and your patience. If you approach an assignment as "Just more homework." Or "Why do I have to do this?" You are already doubting yourself, and your Master. Embrace the assignments that you are given with vigor, and without question. Do the best job that you can. Take the time that you need to complete it efficiently. Use patience in completing your assignments as well as in receiving them. Though you will not see any subterfuge at this Temple, sometimes your Master is looking for an answer that isn't obvious to someone that rushes through it.

Don't approach your Jedi path as a means to an end. Don't look at your studies as the next step closer to being a Knight. It's not the rank or the initials beside your name that define you as a Jedi. It's how you live as a Jedi. What you do with what you learn, and how you apply these teachings. Also, remember that we are not here to change your mind. We are here to open it.

May the Force be with you all.

- Master Nayeldraccon

### [TOTJO ANNIVERSARY](#)

Today, we not only celebrate TOTJO anniversary but also the community of people who meet here.

Today we are celebrating everyone who visits and are members here no matter what walk of life they may come from nor in what way they may participate.

In the Force each individual is unique in his own image where everyone has different talents. And just like the ingredients in a recipe we all bring different elements into the community.

In addition to celebrating all the different groups and people who are part of our present community, we also remember the people who came before us. We remember the people who founded this Temple years ago and we remember the people who built this Temple site 4 years ago.

The purpose of this remembering is not to dream nostalgically about the past, but to thank the Living Force for the life, work and witness of those people. We remember how they lived and the love and the concern they showed to us, and we acknowledge all of that before Community and Force.

Human relationships are not always easy, and the difficulties we have are part of being human and part of the risk of being a member of a community.

Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be human. Some relationships are easy and some are difficult. Some take a lot of effort and some very little effort.

TOTJO has shown that our relationship to the Force can be like that too: sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's difficult. Sometimes, our relationship to the Force flows swimmingly for weeks, months, or years, and other times we struggle: either with faith, with closeness, or with perceiving the presence of the Force.

But to acknowledge the difficulties as well as the goodness in our relationships is a truthful thing, and an authentic thing. And the best relationships are the ones in which we are free to be truthful and authentic. Because, when we acknowledge our differences, our disagreements and even our faults, we can make amends and start to move forward constructively.

We can learn to forgive and we can learn to be forgiven.

There is one group of people here not mentioned yet. We've mentioned the people who are part of our community today. And we've mentioned the people who have come before us. But we've not mentioned the people who will come after us.

As we think about who we are now and who we want to be in the future, some of us will have different ideas; I'd be surprised if there wasn't some disagreement, but all of that is OK.

Let us be mindful as we move forward into what is for us a new year, that the Living Force will move with us and give us the strength to continue to be a community which is forgiving and forgiven.

May the Living Force open our eyes and our ears to it's work in our lives and in the world and help us to respond as we are each called.

May The Force Be With Us!

### [FAITH- THE INDIVIDUAL TRUTH](#)

In recent times, I have been reminded of the saying "one man's meat is another man's poison" but in the context of rules and regulations so perhaps it would be more appropriate to say "one man's security is another man's prison". Our lives are subject to control in many different ways – from an early age we are told how to behave, to conform, to fit in. This can continue into later life and many people feel unable to break free of this conditioning and assert their own beliefs, or at the very least to find the freedom to explore their own path and to make their own mistakes. Are the Amish communities limiting their experience of life or simply protecting themselves from the less savoury aspects of society?



As a result of the increased violence and terrorist activity in the world, we are subject to an ever-increased amount of laws and regulations designed to limit the possibility of further attacks. Our correspondence is monitored, our streets scanned with a multitude of cameras, our civil liberties are restricted, all in the name of protection. To some this is a comfort, a sign that we are being cared for and losing some of our freedom is a small price to pay for an increased feeling of safety. However, to others this is an unacceptable infringement of the concept of liberty; can you really trust those that are keeping an eye on us? Are their motives benevolent or malevolent? To quote: "who watches the watchmen?"

The same is the case with our systems of faith. A religion that imposes a strict set of rules and code of conduct may to some be providing a guiding light, a comforting sense of direction through life. On the other hand, it may be seen to limit free-thinking and freedom of expression. Certain scholars have argued that the Old Testament, a central component of several major world religions, had been written, or altered, to reflect the wishes of the ruling elite at the time. Take for example, the story of the creation of humans. In some ancient versions, Adam and Lilith were created equal but she refused to lie beneath Adam (i.e. accept his dominance over her) and fled Eden as a result. Variations upon this story have her banished from Eden and turning into a sex-crazed mother of demons. Other (more recent) ones omit her from the story completely, focusing on Adam's subsequent partner, Eve, who was said to be born from him, and therefore demonstrating that females are subservient to males. Is this the word of God or the wish of man?

It all depends on your viewpoint and this is the crucial matter: YOU are the important person in your faith.

We are all an essential part of the Force, with an equality that honours the divine within each person.

Does your faith serve your purpose? Or does it serve others above you? Does it serve anyone at all? Only you can answer that, just as you are the one to determine your acceptance of the systems that you engage with. There are far too many places in the world where freedom of expression is not allowed, where persecution, prosecution and execution go hand-in-hand if the law of the land (usually claimed as the law of God) is not obeyed.

If you have the ability to choose your path, then honour it with every step you take. All too often, freedom is taken for granted and is only realised when it is taken away. So ask yourself what YOU need. Examine your community: your faith, your place of residence, your circle of friends, even a site such as this. Do the rules of that community serve your purpose or do you feel restricted by them? Do they offer you the chance to develop and learn within a safety net of monitored behaviour? Or do they limit your possibilities? Security or submission – the choice is yours.

MTFBWY

- Master Mark Anjuu

## **Chapter 6**

### Intercessions

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

In the power of the Living Force,  
let us turn to that Force.

Creator and preserver of all,  
we intercede for people in every kind of need;  
make your ways known on earth,  
your saving health among all nations!

R./May the Force be with us.

We intercede for the good fortune of the Jedi Church;  
guide and govern us by your Spirit,  
that all who profess and call themselves Jedi  
may be led into the way of truth,  
and hold steadfast in the unity of spirit,  
in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life!

R./May the Force be with us.

We commend to your will  
all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed,  
in mind, body or estate;  
comfort and relieve them in their need,  
give them patience in their sufferings,  
and bring good out of all their afflictions!

R./May the Force be with us.

We remember those who have gone before us  
in Your peace,  
and we give you praise for all the faithful...

R./May the Force be with us.

### **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

In the power of the Living Force,  
let us trust in that Force.

Hear our prayers, Architect of Life.

R./The Force is with us.

Govern and direct your Church; fill it with love and truth,  
and grant it that unity which is your will.

R./The Force is with us.

Give us boldness to witness the Jedi Doctrine in all the world.

R./The Force is with us.

Enlighten all your ministers and indeed all Jedi with knowledge  
and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives  
they may proclaim your works.

R./The Force is with us.

Enable your people with the necessary sensitivity to Your energy, fluctuations and disturbances, and to  
witness the fruit of that openness.

R./The Force is with us.

Bring into the way of truth all who have lost their way.

R./The Force is with us.

Strengthen those who give comfort and help to the weak hearted.

R./The Force is with us.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

R./The Force is with us.

Enlighten our governments with wisdom and understanding.

R./The Force is with us.

Stand by those who administer the law, that they may uphold  
justice, honesty and truth.

R./The Force is with us.

Give us the will to use the fruits of the earth to get a better understanding of Yourself, and for the good of  
all creation.

R./The Force is with us.

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

R./The Force is with us.

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

R./The Force is with us.

Heal the sick in body and mind, and provide for the homeless,  
the hungry, and the destitute.

R./The Force is with us.

Show solidarity with prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

R./The Force is with us.

Enable us to forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

R./The Force is with us.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace  
with the Force, and grant us with them a share in the netherworld.

R./The Force is with us.

We ask this for our sakes who strive for the peace of the Living Force..

### **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

Let us be mindful that our Temple may continue the mission of the Force to bear witness to our Doctrine,  
renew people through forgiveness, confront evil and care for the sick.

1.For the members of our community filled with all the spiritual blessings in the Force,that we may bring

hope to our suburbs through word and action.  
Through the Living Force...

May the Force be with us.

2. For those who are burdened with guilt, or caught in addictions which damage the body, mind or emotions, that they may find that freedom which comes from forgiveness and healing.  
Through the Living Force...

3. For the restoration of human rights and political diversity in Iran and China, that the recent demonstrations may not lead to imprisonment and torture of citizens.  
Through the Living Force...

4. For families and young people facing unemployment or reduced working hours, and students seeking work, that they may receive encouragement and support from the community.  
Through the Living Force...

5. For those who have died that they may praise the glory of the Living Force in the after life.  
We remember . . .  
Through the Living Force...

Blessed be the Living Force who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings in life let us say his praises  
for ever and ever.

## **Chapter 7**

### Ceremonies

## A SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF TEMPLE/CHURCH LAND

A processional sign or symbol around which Jedi gather may be used to focus the gathering point.

### GATHERING

Congregation members and guests gather on the land.

### GREETING

The minister address those gathered.

Dear Friends,

we have gathered here in gratitude for the gift of the universe,  
and to accept this special gift  
of the stewardship of the land on which we now stand.  
It is we who are a part of that universe and have received.  
All that we are and all that we have are at one with the Force.  
We are woven into the great seamless fabric of the universal,  
our health and wholeness depend on its health and wholeness.  
Therefore, we adopt this land as a special trust from the Force.

### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.  
Almighty and never ending Force,  
be present with us  
as we accept from you this gift of stewardship.  
Grant to this land the grace of your presence,  
so that all who come here&nbsp;    
will know the peace and comfort of your love.  
Bless all people and all creatures  
who will share and use this property.  
May we be good neighbours  
and worthy stewards  
of the life that graces this portion of your earth.  
Amen.

### TEXT READING

(Relevant to stewardship, earth...)

### HYMN OR POEM

(Relevant to stewardship, earth...)

### SONGS/HYMNS

All things bright and beautiful (Alexander/Royal Oak)  
Morning has broken (Farjeon/Bunessan)  
Canticle of the Sun (Haugen)  
Imagine... (John Lennon)

### BLESSING OF THE LAND



The pastor addresses the congregation.

We ask the Force to be with this land  
and to guide and bless us in preparing it  
for holy worship, prayer, service and fellowship.  
We recognize that it is a part of the universal whole,  
good and pleasing and valuable in its own right.  
The responsibility and the privilege rest upon us  
to be worthy tenants and caretakers.  
We bring offerings as tokens of our pledge  
to care for the health and wholeness of this land and this community.

Upon the invitation of the minister, all who wish may step forward to scatter a small offering of soil,  
compost, ash, or other earth material on the ground as they speak the responses below.

That a church may meet here where children will learn to love the Force and grow in Wonder and grace  
and goodness, and in unity with the Force and all people,

May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.  
That a church may meet here where the weary and heavy-laden will find peace,  
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.  
That a church may meet here where multitudes will be refreshed in spirit, relieved from pain and anxiety,  
released from bondage, and redeemed from guilt,  
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.  
That a church may meet here from which, by your power, your people are sent forth into this community  
and all the world as champions of justice and peace in all the earth,  
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.  
That a church may meet here and use and care for this land with such gratitude, diligence, and respect  
that it will be in perfect harmony with the entire community of creation,  
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy  
as we seek to fulfill the holy purposes  
for which we dedicate ourselves and this land,  
in Your name.

May the Force be with us.

## PRAYER

I believe in The Living Force Of Creation:

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

SENDING FORTH

### **CONSECRATION OF A TEMPLE/CHURCH**

Before the Consecration of the temple/church takes place, the Bishop has to make certain that it is Properly furnished and equipped for the celebration of the rites and ceremonies of the Church according to the use of the TOTJO.

This Service should only be used when the land and buildings are free from debt and there is reason to believe that the building will be used for worship in perpetuity. Otherwise it should not be consecrated, but dedicated with the use of some of the prayers in this form, as the Bishop shall direct.

The Bishop, attended by assistants, should be received at the door of the Church by those gathered.

A Petition, in the form following or to the like effect, signed by responsible ministers, wardens, and others, should be read, and presented to the Bishop.

To the Right Reverend ..... Bishop of .....

We, the responsible, wardens, and inhabitants of ....., having acquired the land [describe it], more particularly described in a deed between ..... and ..... [or by will or otherwise as the case may be], duly registered according to law [where registration is possible] on the ..... day of ..... in the year of our Lord ....., on which there is a Temple/Church, which we certify to be free from any legal encumbrance, do humbly pray you to separate the same from all profane and common uses, and to consecrate the said Temple/Church, and set it apart for ever for worship with the Force, according to the rites and discipline of the TOTJO.

The Bishop, accepting the Petition, should answer and consent, saying:

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, if this is your wish, and the wish of the all members of the TOTJO, we will now proceed to the act of Consecration.

May the positive energy of the Force be with us, in all that we do; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You, we may honour Your Name, and that finally our souls and spirits may continue in the netherworld of the Living Force.

The Bishop and his attendants may walk round the outside of the building, or the Temple/Church-yard. If a Burial-ground is to be consecrated, it may be done at this time.

Then the Bishop, taking a ceremonial instrument, knocks five (rites) times at the door.

If conditions require, the Petition may be read within the Church, and the Bishop may strike the floor near the door with his ceremonial instrument.

Bishop.

OPEN to me the gates of righteousness, that I may go into them and let us be aware of the Force.

Then the Churchwardens shall open wide the doors.

Then the Bishop, standing within the entrance, shall say:

PEACE be to this House of the Living Force, our spiritual Guide.

The Bishop with his attendants shall then proceed towards the Chancel while a text is read or sung.

When the Bishop is seated, he shall have the necessary legal documents presented to him, by the person duly appointed, which he shall place visible to all; and then, standing and turning to the Congregation, he shall say to them as follows:

DEARLY beloved in the Force, for-as-much as dedicated and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Jedi Doctrine, moved by the secret inspiration of the omnipresent Force, or by their own reason and sense of order and decency, have erected this houses for public service, and have separated it from all profane and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for the Force's glorious majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service: Let us not doubt that this lies in the Force's purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner to religious worship; and let us faithfully and devoutly ask the Force's blessing on this our undertaking, keeping silence for a moment.

Bishop.

Let us gather our thoughts.

O Force of peace, hear our intentions;

Answer. Let our voices be heard.

Bishop.

O ETERNAL Force, mighty in power, of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; be present with us, who are now gathered together to consecrate this place, with all humility and readiness of heart, to the honour of your great Name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it entirely to your service, for reading therein your most holy Word, for celebrating Your will, for offering to

Your glorious majesty the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing Your people in Your Name, and for all other holy ordinances: Accept this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may most serve Your will, and the liberation of Your people.

Then the Bishop may with his ceremonial instrument trace the letters of the Jedi blessing MTFBWY.

Then he shall say:

I CLAIM this place for the one Force, who is the First and the Last, and inherent in all. MTFBW us all.

Then the people shall stand, and the Bishop with his attendants shall go to the Font, where he shall say:

One Force, one Faith, one Oath;

Answer. One Force, one Faith, one Oath.

Bishop.

GRANT, O Force, that this Temple/Church, which we now consecrate for your service, may be a Temple/Church for all who come; that, being a Temple/Church dedicated to your service they may rise unto righteousness, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful; we ask this through the life giving power of the Force. MTFBW us.

As they go to the centre and return to the Chancel, a text or song, may be recited in two parts. And the Bishop, standing at the Chancel steps, shall say:

Our help is in the Name of the Force;

Answer. Who made the Universe.

Bishop.

GRANT, O Force, that all who in this place shall renew the promises and vows, may be confirmed and strengthened with Your power, and continuing Yours for ever, may daily increase more and more, until they come to the netherworld.

Bishop. Whatever the Force binds together;

Answer. Let no man separate.

Bishop.

GRANT, O Force, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of Matrimony may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them, and may remain in perfect love together until their lives' end; MTFBW us.

The Bishop, turning towards the Prayer Desk, shall say:

Hear our prayer, O Force;

Answer. And consider our desire.

Bishop.

GRANT O Force, that whosoever shall recognise their faults, and offer up their prayers and praises unto thy Divine Majesty in this place, may be acceptable in Your sight, and finally may be graciously received into Your presence, to praise and glorify You for evermore; MTFBW us.

The Bishop, turning towards the Lectern or Pulpit, shall say:

Your Word is a lantern unto my feet;

Answer. And a light unto my path.

Bishop.

GRANT, O Force, that through Your Movements, which shall be proclaimed in this place, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; MTFBW us.

Then the Bishop, standing with his attendants in the midst of the Chancel, shall say:

To do good and to distribute should not be forgotten;

Answer. For such sacrifices are good and just.

Bishop.

GRANT, O Force, to Your people who sacrifice themselves for this place, that they may give cheerfully for the work of the Temple/Church, and the extension of Your Truth; MTFBW us.

Then the Bishop, standing before the holy Table, shall say:

The memorial of Your abundant kindness shall be showed;

Answer. And all shall sing of Your righteousness.

Bishop.

GRANT, O Force, that this Table may be consecrated for celebration and remembrance of the sanctity of Life; and that our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which is here offered unto Your Divine Majesty may be acceptable, through the merits and mediation of Your faithful, the Jedi. MTFBW us.

The Bishop, sitting in his Chair, shall then sign, and cause to be read publicly, the Sentence of Consecration given under his hand and seal according to the form following, or to the like effect, which Sentence shall be recorded in the Registry of the Temple/Diocese.

#### SENTENCE OF CONSECRATION

In the Name of the Force.

WHEREAS a Temple/Church has been erected at ..... within our Diocese and jurisdiction, upon a piece of land [description of the land and title to be here inserted]; and whereas the said building is now completed and furnished with all things requisite for the due performance of public worship, and is free from all legal liability for debt, and is now ready for Consecration; and whereas a Petition has been

presented to us by the responsible, the Wardens, and others [to be here described as the case may be], praying that we would be pleased to consecrate the said building:

Now therefore, we, ....., by Divine permission Bishop of ..... do by virtue of the authority ordinary and episcopal to us committed, consecrate the said building, and do set it apart from all profane and common uses, and do dedicate the same to the Force for the ministration, and for public worship, according to the rites and ceremonies of the TOTJO, by the name of .....

And we do pronounce, decree, and declare that the said Temple/Church shall remain so consecrated, set apart, and dedicated for ever; In the Name of the Force and the TOTJO.

WITNESS our hand and seal, this ..... day of ..... in the Year of the Lord ..... and of our Consecration the .....

The Bishop standing, and turning to the people, shall say:

GRANT that this whole place which is here dedicated to You by our office and ministry may also be consecrated by the sanctifying power of the Force, who lives and governs all things, world without end.

AND now, by virtue of the sacred office committed to us in the Temple/Church, I do declare to be consecrated and set apart from all profane and common uses this Temple under the Name and title of THE TEMPLE OF ..... [here he shall state the dedication].

### **JEDI KNIGHTING CEREMONY**

Master of Ceremony: Having completed the requirements prescribed by TOTJO and been deemed worthy by her/his Brothers and Sisters therein, (knight candidate) begs leave to come forward to receive the burden of Knighthood that which s/he has earned.

Master of Ceremony: (knight candidate) step forward.

Knight Candidate: Present

Master: , are you prepared to accept the accolade of Knighthood this day?

Candidate: Yes, I am.

Master: Has the Candidate completed all of the required points as prescribed by TOTJO?

Master of Ceremony: Yes, s/he has.

Master: Is the Candidate duly registered as prescribed by TOTJO?

Master of Ceremony: Yes, s/he has.

Master: Is the candidate under any judicial ban that would prevent the taking of this office at this time?

Master of Ceremony: No, s/he is not.

Master: Is the candidate a member in good standing?

Master of Ceremony: Yes, s/he is.

Master: Then let the Tabard be brought forward.

While the Tabard are being placed on the Candidate's shoulders the Master continues:

Master: The Tabards represent the burden of a Knight where ever s/he may be, dispensing justice tempered with mercy, protecting the weak, defending the defenseless, and helping the needy.

Master: Let the Belt be brought forward.

Master: When a Jedi knight girds her/himself with the belt, s/he girds her/himself with the purity of purpose as dictated in the Doctrine of the TOTJO. Tightening the belt does not only reflect the sacrifice of duty but also the fortification provided by Jedi community, Jedi teachings and our Jedi Masters. When first put on in the knighting ceremony it marks a new beginning or rebirth as a new person of which we are reminded every day we wear it thereafter. It encompasses each Jedi Knight in the entirety of her/his person (in body, mind and spirit).

Once the Belt is girded, the Master continues:

Master: Let the Saber-hilt be brought forward.

Master: "The crystal is the heart of the blade.  
The heart is the crystal of the Jedi.  
The Jedi is the crystal of the Force.  
The Force is the blade of the heart.  
All are intertwined.  
The crystal, the blade, the Jedi.  
You are one."

Once the Saber-hilt is girded, the Master directs the Candidate to place her/his hands on the Saber-hilt of the Master. The Master will administer the Jedi Creed (one phrase at a time):

Master: Please repeat after me:

I believe in The Living Force Of Creation:

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

After the Creed is said, the Master will commence with the knighting.

Master: Having fulfilled the requirements, and been clothed in your vestments, and having taken your Oath, I hereby create you a Knight in the name of TOTJO.

Rise Knight Jedi (name)

Master: Let this be the last blow you take unanswered.

Master: We are all Jedi. The Force speaks through us. Through our actions, the Force proclaims itself and what is real. Today we are here to acknowledge what the Force has proclaimed.

Master: By the right of the Council, by the will of the Force, I dub thee, Jedi Knight of TOTJO.

Afterwards, the Master of Ceremony proclaims the following:

"Take up your lightsaber, (name of the new knight), Jedi Knight. And may the Force be with you."

### WEDDING CEREMONY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, WE HAVE COME HERE TODAY AT THE INVITATION OF G\_\_\_\_\_ AND B\_\_\_\_\_ TO SHARE IN THE JOY OF THEIR WEDDING. THIS OUTWARD CELEBRATION THAT WE SHALL SEE AND HEAR IS AN \_\_expression\_\_ OF THE INNER LOVE AND DEVOTION THEY HAVE IN THEIR HEARTS TOWARD ONE ANOTHER. This union is a symbolic representation of our Union with the Force.

B\_\_\_\_\_ AND G\_\_\_\_\_  
COME TODAY DESIRING TO BE UNITED IN THIS  
SACRED RELATIONSHIP OF MARRIAGE.

WHO IS GIVING THIS WOMAN TO BE MARRIED TO THIS MAN?  
(FATHER) HER MOTHER AND I DO!

TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM:  
MARRIAGE IS A GIFT IN  
THAT WE GIVE OURSELVES TOTALLY TO ONE ANOTHER. MARRIAGE IS A GIFT GIVEN TO  
COMFORT THE SORROWS OF LIFE AND TO  
MAGNIFY LIFE'S JOYS.

MARRIAGE IS THE CLASPING OF HANDS, THE BLENDING OF TWO HEARTS, THE  
UNION OF TWO LIVES INTO ONE AND YOUR MARRIAGE MUST STAND, NOT BY  
THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, NOR BY THE SEAL ON YOUR WEDDING  
CERTIFICATE, BUT BY THE STRENGTH AND POWER OF THE FAITH AND LOVE  
YOU HAVE IN ONE ANOTHER. This love is Central to all Jedi and this union the deepest representation  
of that love.



NOW, WILL YOU PLEASE TURN AND FACE ONE ANOTHER  
AND JOIN HANDS TO EXPRESS YOUR VOWS OF LOVE AND DEVOTION EACH TO  
THE OTHER.

(GROOM) WILL YOU PLEASE REPEAT THIS VOW TO B\_\_\_\_\_, SAYING AFTER ME:  
I, G\_\_\_\_\_, TAKE YOU B\_\_\_\_\_ TO BE MY WIFE, TO HAVE AND TO  
HOLD, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, FOR RICHER, OR  
FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, I PROMISE TO LOVE AND  
CHERISH YOU.

(BRIDE) WILL YOU PLEASE REPEAT THIS VOW TO G\_\_\_\_\_, SAYING AFTER ME:  
I, B\_\_\_\_\_, TAKE YOU G\_\_\_\_\_ TO BE MY HUSBAND, TO HAVE AND TO  
HOLD, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, FOR RICHER OR  
FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, I PROMISE TO LOVE AND  
CHERISH YOU.

As Jedi, we understand how Love is central to our lives. This love is what allows us to serve others  
selflessly, and brings us closer to the Force. With these vows and this union you now choose to serve  
one another as well.

HAVING THIS KIND OF LOVE IN YOUR HEARTS FOR ONE ANOTHER, YOU HAVE  
CHOSEN TO EXCHANGE RINGS(or whatever is chosen) AS THE SIGN AND SEAL OF THE  
PROMISES YOU  
ARE MAKING TO ONE ANOTHER TODAY. TO (GROOM): DO YOU HAVE A RING  
FOR B\_\_\_\_\_? MAY I HAVE THE RING? TO BRIDE:  
DO YOU HAVE A RING FOR G\_\_\_\_\_? MAY I HAVE THE RING?

RINGS ARE VERY LARGE IN THEIR SIGNIFICANCE. THEY ARE MADE OF A  
PRECIOUS \_\_meta\_\_L AND PRECIOUS STONE AND THAT REMINDS US THAT LOVE IS  
NOT CHEAP NOR COMMON; BUT INDEED LOVE IS VERY COSTLY AND DEAR TO  
US. THESE RINGS ARE ALSO MADE IN A CIRCLE AND THEIR DESIGN TELLS  
US THAT WE MUST KEEP LOVE CONTINUOUS THROUGHOUT OUR WHOLE LIVES  
EVEN AS THE CIRCLE OF THE RING IS CONTINUOUS. AS YOU WEAR THESE  
RINGS, WHETHER YOU ARE TOGETHER OR APART FOR EVEN JUST A MOMENT,  
MAY THESE RINGS BE A CONSTANT REMINDER OF THE PROMISES YOU ARE  
MAKING TO ONE ANOTHER THIS DAY.

TO GROOM: G\_\_\_\_\_ WILL YOU PLEASE TAKE THIS RING AND PLACE IT  
UPON THE THIRD FINGER OF B\_\_\_\_\_ 'S LEFT HAND, AND HOLDING HER  
HAND IN YOURS, PLEASE REPEAT THIS PROMISE TO B\_\_\_\_\_, SAYING  
AFTER ME:  
WITH THIS RING, I SEAL MY PROMISE, TO BE YOUR FAITHFUL AND LOVING HUSBAND,  
AS all present and The Living Force of Creation as my witness.

TO BRIDE: B\_\_\_\_\_ WILL YOU PLEASE TAKE THIS RING AND PLACE IT  
UPON THE THIRD FINGER OF G\_\_\_\_\_ 'S LEFT HAND, AND HOLDING HIS  
HAND IN YOURS PLEASE REPEAT THIS PROMISE TO G\_\_\_\_\_ AFTER ME TO HIM, SAYING:  
WITH THIS RING, I SEAL MY PROMISE, TO BE YOUR FAITHFUL AND LOVING WIFE, AS all present  
and The Living Force of Creation as my witness.

CANDLE LIGHTING OPTIONAL.

PRAYER FOR BRIDE AND GROOM AND PERSONAL WORDS BY THE MINISTER.

POEMS - OPTIONAL OR HAVE YOUR OWN.

TRUE LOVE GIVES NOTHING OF ITSELF  
AND TAKES NOTHING BUT FROM ITSELF  
LOVE DOES NOT POSSESS, NOR WOULD IT BE POSSESSED  
FOR LOVE IS SUFFICIENT UNTO LOVE.  
LOVE HAS NO OTHER DESIRE BUT TO FULFILL ITSELF  
TO AWAKE AT DAWN WITH A WINGED HEART AND TO GIVE  
THANKS FOR ANOTHER DAY OF LOVING.  
TO REST AT NOON AND MEDITATE UPON LOVE'S ECSTASY,  
TO RETURN HOME AT EVENING WITH GRATITUDE  
AND THEN TO SLEEP WITH A PRAYER FOR YOUR BELOVED  
IN YOUR HEART AND A SONG OF PRAISE UPON YOUR LIPS.

PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

B\_\_\_\_\_ AND G\_\_\_\_\_, YOU HAVE COME HERE TODAY  
BEFORE US AND HAVE EXPRESSED YOUR DESIRE TO BECOME  
HUSBAND AND WIFE. YOU HAVE SHOWN YOUR LOVE AND AFFECTION BY JOINING  
HANDS, AND HAVE MADE PROMISES OF FAITH AND DEVOTION, EACH TO THE  
OTHER, AND HAVE SEALED THESE PROMISES BY THE GIVING AND THE  
RECEIVING OF THE RINGS.  
THEREFORE, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AS A MINISTER OF THE FORCE AND BY THE  
AUTHORITY GIVEN TO ME BY THE THE STATE OF {WHATEVER STATE} , I NOW PRONOUNCE  
THAT YOU ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE.  
G\_\_\_\_\_ YOU MAY KISS YOUR WIFE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU FOR  
THE FIRST TIME MR. AND MRS. \_\_\_\_\_.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### [FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE](#)

The Gathering

The minister welcomes the people and introduces the service.

The minister says:

We meet in the name of (deceased),  
who died and has returned to the glory of The Living Force of Creation.  
Peace be with you.  
And also with you.]

The minister introduces the service.

Minister:

We look not to the things that are seen  
but to the things that are unseen;  
for the things that are seen are transient  
but the things that are unseen are eternal.  
Today we come together  
to remember our brother/sister N ,  
to give thanks for his/her life  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

#### Opening Words of Comfort

Minister:

Living Force of Creation,  
we thank you because you gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit. We thank you now for N(deceased)  
and what he/she meant to each of us.  
As we honor his/her memory,  
make us more aware that it is only from the Living Force that life flows.

All:

So Sayeth the Jedi

(or)

Minister:

The Living Force of Creation,  
The source of all Life and Energy in the Universe,  
we thank you for your servant (deceased),  
the life and grace you gave them  
and the peace in which they rest.  
Meet us in our sadness  
and fill our hearts with trust and thanksgiving.

All:

So Sayeth the Jedi

#### Readings and Message

All:

To the Force return our Brother/Sister,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Minister:

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice:  
the desert shall burst into song.  
May the Living Force guide our hearts,  
and lead us to fulfillment .

All:

To the Force return our Brother/Sister,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Minister:

Strengthen the weary hands:  
make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious: Be strong, fear not,  
For the Force is with us.

All:

To the Force return our Brother/Sister,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away

A reading of the Doctrine may occur.  
At the end the reader may say

Love and Kindness flow from the Force.

All:

So sayeth the Jedi.

(Memories may be shared, a tribute or tributes may be made. songs and readings may be used.)

The message is Delivered.  
(Message is written and delivered by the minister  
One of these sayings may then be used)

Minister:

Living Force of Creation,  
we give you thanks for your servant N.  
We recollect his/her life and cherish  
his/her memory.  
he/she has brought light to our lives;  
for we have seen  
in his/her friendship reflections eternal compassion,  
in his/her integrity demonstrations of great goodness,  
in his/her faithfulness glimpses of eternal life in the Force.  
May each of us, beloved and bereft,  
follow his/her good example  
so that we with him/her may come to know more of the Mystery.

All:

So Sayeth the Jedi.

(or)

Minister:

Those who have died in faith  
have eternal joy in the Force.  
For us who remain, be with us in our sadness

and turn our spirits to you.  
raise us to new life in the Living Force,  
give us victory over death  
and confidence to look forward on our Paths.

All:  
So Sayeth the Jedi.

#### Affirmation of Faith

This Affirmation of Faith may be used;

Minister:  
Let us declare our faith  
in the living Force of Creation and the Eternal Mystery:

All:  
There is no Emotion; There is Peace.  
There is no Ignorance; There is Knowledge.  
There is no Passion; There is Serenity.  
There is no Chaos: There is Harmony.  
There is no Death; There is the Force.

And/or

#### The Jedi Creed

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.  
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.  
I am a Jedi.  
I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

#### Granting of Peace

Minister:  
Peace be with you now as you remember our fellow traveler on the Path.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.  
Peace in the Living Force be with you always.

All:  
and also with you.

Conclusion

Minister:  
Neither death nor life  
can separate us from the living Force of Creation.  
May we have the Patience and Wisdom  
to trust the Force not for ourselves alone,  
but also for those whom we love  
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;  
that, as we travel our Paths we may be lead by its eternal and universal Will.

All:  
So Sayeth the Jedi.

Minister:  
May the Living Force  
make you perfect in every good work that you may follow its will;  
May The Force Be With You Always.

All:  
And also with you.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### **The Welcome:**

We are gathered here today to share in the grief over the physical death of (name). We are also here to celebrate (name) life and to remember the remarkable Jedi that s/he was. Let us be in this moment together to share the beauty that (name) life represented. Let us now remember his/her spirit and rejoice that he has made his journey home.

Sample Poem:

Immortality  
Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow;  
I am diamond glints of snow;  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;  
I am the gentle autumn's rain.  
When you awaken in the mornings hush;  
I am the swift uplighting rush  
Of quiet birds' encircled flight.  
I am the soft star that shines at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there,  
I did not die.

-Author Unknown

### Candle Lighting Ceremony

The candle I have here represents the spirit of (name), which represents the light of his soul, the light of the world.

You have all a candle. Each of these candles represents the light within you. In a moment, I am going to ask you to light your candle and place it on the table next to you. This symbolizes that even though we are physically separate, our spirits are one. Also, while the candles are being lit, please join me to remember the love and beauty of (name) life.

Invocation:

Living Force of Creation, be with us today and share with us your grace and unconditional love. Be with us during our time of loss and guide us in our time of need. We seek your comfort through the love we share for one another, through the love we share for (name).

Help us to remember that death is a gateway into the fullness of Life Everlasting and that our connections, made in the name of Love, transcend physical form and persist eternally. We ask that our grief be lessened through the sharing of words, and memories, and by the visitation of Your Loving Grace. May the Force be with us.

Sample Reading:

A reading from The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran

You would know the secret of death. But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life? The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light. If you would behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one. In the depths of our hopes and desire, lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity. Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the King whose hand is to be laid upon him in honor. Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling that he shall wear the mark of the King? Yet, he is not more mindful of his trembling? For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun. And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breathe from its restless tides that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered? Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountaintop, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

Euology:

Life Story Summary

Please add your condolences, or thoughts...

This is the place where friends say a few words about the passed loved one.

Sample Prayer:

(Read by the minister but require a group representative response)

Please join me now in a prayer. The response is:

R: We remember him

In the rising of the sun and when it sets,

R: We remember him.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

R: We remember him.

In the opening of buds and the rebirth of spring,

R: We remember him.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

R: We remember him

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn

R: We remember him

So long as we live, he too shall live, for he is a part of us,

R: We remember him

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

R: We remember him

When we are weary and in need of strength

R: We remember him

When we are lost and sick at heart

R: We remember him

When we have joys we yearn to share

R: We remember him

So long as we live, he too shall live, for he is a part of us,

R: We remember him

Closing Prayer

Let us Pray:

Living Force of Creation, we send forth the soul of your beloved (name) into your gentle arms. Hold his precious spirit in your beautiful universal embrace, where he is safe and whole.

R: May the Force be with him/her.

(The remainder of the Closing Prayer will be posted shortly)

Sample Poem:



## The Dash Poem, by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From the beginning to the end  
He noted that first came the date of her birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years  
For that dash represents all the time  
That she spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.  
For it matters not how much we own;  
The cars, the house, the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.  
So think about this long and hard.  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left,  
That can still be rearranged.  
If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.  
And be less quick to anger,  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.  
If we treat each other with respect,  
And more often wear a smile  
Remembering that this special dash  
Might only last a little while.  
So, when your eulogy is being read  
With your life's actions to rehash  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your dash?  
Have a great week!

## Final Blessing

May the Living Force of Creation bless you and keep you all ways.  
May It's light shine upon your face and be gracious unto you.  
May It's presence be with you now and for all the days of your lives,  
And may It grant you peace and comfort, now and forever.

Let Us All Say loud ...

R: May the force be with You always Name)!

Go in peace my friends

## OF MINISTERS

The Gathering and Presentation  
The Greeting

The bishop greets the people

Bishop: The Peace of the Living Force be with you all.

All: And also with you

The bishop introduces the service

Bishop:

The Force calls its people to witness, and some of these people it calls to minister its truths and mysteries to others. To serve this need, The Force has given particular ministries. Ministers are ordained to lead the Force's people on their respective paths and to guide them to self discovery and understanding. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Jedi always, before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow Ministers, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of doctrine and guidance, that we all may grow into the fullness of the Force and better understand ourselves.

The Presentation  
Each ordained is presented

Bishop (name) of the Force, I present (ordained) to be ordained to the office of Minister(or Reverend) in the Jedi Order; he/she is to serve all others as minister of the Force.

When the ordinands have been presented, the bishop asks these questions, to which the appropriate persons respond

Bishop: Have those whose duty it is to know these ordinands and examine them found them to be of Right action as Jedi and of sound learning?

Presenting Minister: They have.

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve The Force in this ministry?

Presenting Minister: They do.

The bishop turns to the ordinands and says

Bishop: Do you believe that The Living Force of Creation is calling you to this ministry?

Ordinands: I do so believe.

Bishop: I invite the presenting minister to confirm that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths as Jedi.

Presenting Minister: They have duly taken the oath of the Jedi and to the Doctrine of the Temple. They have affirmed and declared their belief in the faith which is revealed in the Force and set forth in the Jedi creed and to which the Masters bear witness.

#### The Collect

The bishop introduces a period of silent reflection with the following bidding or other suitable words  
Bishop: Let us reflect on the Force and its Will.

The bishop says the following words of fellowship

Bishop: Living Force of Creation,  
you have called us into fellowship to  
meditate on your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servants now to be ordained  
the needful gifts of Focus, Knowledge, and Wisdom.

Sermon on service and calling of vocation.

After the Sermon, all Jedi and the ordinands say the Creed.

#### The Jedi Creed

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.  
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.  
I am a Jedi.  
I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
The Force is with me always, for I am a Jedi.

#### The Declarations

The ordinands stand before the bishop, who addresses the congregation

Bishop: Ministers are called to be servants among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to guide and aid others on their Paths in the Force. They are to be

messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Church; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his/her family, to search for his/her children in the wilderness of this world, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may grow in knowledge and wisdom of the Force. They are to call their hearers to live in the present and to protect the peace. They are to uphold the teachings of Jediism. By their actions we grow. By their teachings we understand. They are to tell the story of love and illuminate the compassion of the Force. They are to unfold the Doctrine in season and out of season, and to declare the teachings of the Masters of this faith and others. They are to preside at the Force's door and lead its people in Learning, offering with them a spiritual guidance of understanding and tolerance. They are to bless the people in The Force. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Living Force of Creation, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all people; that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

The bishop addresses the ordinands directly

Bishop: We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the Living Force of Creation, to devote yourself wholly to this service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of the Doctrine and grow in knowledge of the Force, the lives of all with whom you touch may be enlightened and given peace.

And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Doctrine as revealing all things necessary for faith as a Jedi?

Ordinands: I do so accept them.

Bishop: Will you be diligent in Meditation, in reading the Doctrine, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the Living Force of Creation?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

Bishop: Will you lead the churches people in understanding of the Force, so that they may grow in compassionate realization of its power?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

Bishop: Will you faithfully minister the doctrine as the church has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

Bishop: Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to The Living Force, strive to be an instrument of peace in the Church and in the world?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

Bishop: Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of the Jedi, that you may be a pattern and example to Jedi everywhere?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

Bishop: Will you work with your fellow servants in the church for the sake of all people?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

Bishop: Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

Bishop: Will you then, in the strength of the Living Force, continually stir up the gifts that are in you, to make present compassion and tolerance among all whom you serve?

Ordinands: The Force be with me, I will.

The congregation stands and the ordinands turn and face them.

Presenting Minister: Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that these ordinands are ready to undertake, and you have heard their declarations. Is it now your will that they should be ordained?

All: It is.

Presenting Minister: Will you continually pray for them?

All: We will.

Presenting Minister: Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All: We will.

The ordinands turn back to face the bishop, who continues, addressing them

Bishop: In Living Force of Creation we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is the understanding, focus, and knowledge, of all people. It is to The Force you will render account for your stewardship of its people. You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of The Force. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Force be enlightened.

The Sending Out

Bishop: The Force, who has called you is faithful.  
May the Force, whose mystery is unknown,  
bless you and send you to teach and counsel those who suffer and are in need of Compassion.

All: So sayeth the Jedi.

Bishop: May the Living Force of Creation guide you in its infinite wisdom, that you may share its peace with all others.

All: So sayeth the Jedi.

Bishop: May the comfort of the Force  
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

All: So sayeth the Jedi.

Bishop: May The Force Be With You Always, where so ever you may go!

All: Let it be so!

Bishop: Go and teach that others may understand. Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

- Master Twsoundsoff

### OF A BISHOP

entrance of the bishops and  
other ministers.

The people standing, the Bishop appointed says

Blessed be The Force.  
People And blessed be Its people, now and for ever. Amen.

The Bishop then says

Living Force of Creation, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your mystery, that we may  
perfectly love All people, and worthily Understand your ways ;  
The Force is With Us!

The Presentation

The bishops and people sit. Representatives of the church, both Ministers  
and Members, standing before the Presiding Bishop, present the  
bishop elect, saying

N., Bishop The Force, the clergy and people of  
the Temple of the Jedi Order, trusting in the guidance of the Force,  
have chosen N.N. to be a bishop and chief pastor. We  
therefore ask you to lay your hands upon him/her and in the power  
of The Force to consecrate him/her a bishop in the Temple of the Jedi Order.

The Presiding Bishop then directs that testimonials of the election be read.

When the reading of the testimonials is ended, the Presiding Bishop requires  
the following promise from the Bishop elect

In the Living Force of Creation, I, N.N., chosen Bishop of the Church, solemnly declare that I do believe in the power of the Living Force of Creation and the Doctrine of this Church, and that they contain all things necessary to a fulfilling life of Service and A fulfilling afterlife in the Force and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine and discipline of the Temple of the Jedi Order

The Bishop elect then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present. The witnesses add their signatures.

All stand.

The Presiding Bishop then says the following, or similar words, and asks the response of the people

Brothers and sisters in the Force, you have heard testimony given that N.N. has been duly and lawfully elected to be a bishop of the Temple to serve in the Church. You have been assured of his/her suitability and that the Church has approved him/her for this sacred responsibility.

The Presiding Bishop continues

Is it your will that we ordain N. a bishop?

The People respond in these or other words

That is our will.

Presiding Bishop

Will you uphold N. as bishop?

The People respond in these or other words

We will.

The Presiding Bishop stands and reads the Collect for the Day, or the following Collect, or both, first saying

Peace be with you  
People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Living Force of unchangeable power and eternal light: Work favorably in your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your Wisdom, let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made

new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection  
by the power of your will  
May the Force be With us.

## The Examination

All now sit, except the bishop elect, who stands facing the bishops. The Presiding Bishop addresses the bishop elect

My brother/sister, the people have chosen you and have affirmed their trust in you by acclaiming your election. A bishop in the Temple of the Jedi Order is called to be one with the Force and an expert in interpreting the Doctrine, and to testify to The Living Force of Creation's power in the Universe.

You are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and to provide for the administration of the Church; to ordain Ministers and to join in ordaining bishops; and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire Jedi Community and The World.

With your fellow bishops you will share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. Your heritage is the faith of The Masters. Your joy will be to follow The Force, not to be served, but to serve, and to give your life to the celebration of Peace.

Are you persuaded that The Force has called you to the Work of a bishop?

Answer I am so persuaded.

The following questions are then addressed to the bishop elect by one or more of the other bishops

Bishop Will you accept this call and fulfill this trust in Humility in the Force?

Answer I will

Bishop Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the study of The doctrine and other faiths, that you may have the mind of A Jedi?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you boldly proclaim and interpret the Doctrine of the Church and The will of The Force, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people?



Answer I will, in the power of the Force.

Bishop As a chief pastor, will you encourage and support all people in their gifts and ministries, nourish them from the riches of The Force pray for them without ceasing, and celebrate with them the diversity of our church?

Answer I will

Bishop Will you guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church?

Answer I will, for the love of God.

Bishop Will you share with your fellow bishops in the government of the whole Church; will you sustain your fellow ministers and take counsel with them; will you guide and strengthen all others who minister in the Church?

Answer I will

Bishop Will you be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper?

Answer I will

All stand. The Presiding Bishop then says

N., through these promises you have committed yourself to The Force, to serve this Church in the office of bishop. We therefore call upon you, chosen to be a guardian of the Church's faith, to lead us in confessing that faith.

Bishop elect

The Jedi Creed

All Present

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

## The Consecration of the Bishop

All continue to stand, except the bishop elect, who kneels before the Presiding Bishop. The other bishops stand to the right and left of the Presiding Bishop.

A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing.

The Presiding Bishop then begins this Prayer of Consecration

Living Force of Creation, Master of mercies  
and source of all comfort, knowing all things before they come to pass: We thank you for gathering and prepared a people to understand the knowledge and wisdom you lay out before us.  
We invoke you also that  
from the creation you have those of your people the ministry  
of those whom you have chosen.

The Presiding Bishop and other Bishops now lay their hands upon the head of the bishop elect, and say together

Therefore, We bear witness to this man/woman becoming; N. a bishop in the temple of the Jedi Order.  
Pour  
out upon him the power of your unity, Whereby the Church is built up in every place.

Presiding Bishop continues

To you, the members and Jedi of The Temple, all hearts are open; fill  
This, your servant, whom you have chosen to be a bishop in  
the Church, with such love of all the people, that  
he/she may feed and tend the Force and it's people, and exercise  
without reproach the high vocation to which you have  
called him/her, serving before you day and night in the ministry  
of reconciliation, declaring pardon, offering gifts, and wisely overseeing the life and work of the  
Church. In all things may he/she present before you the acceptable  
offering of a pure, and gentle, and Jedi life. May The Force be With Him!

The People in a loud voice respond Let it Be So!

The new bishop is now adorned according to the order of bishops.

The Presiding Bishop presents to the people their new bishop.

The Clergy and People offer their acclamation and applause.

The Peace

The new Bishop then says

The peace of the Force be always with you.  
People And also with you.

The Presiding Bishop and other Bishops greet the new bishop.

The People greet one another.

The new Bishop also greets other members of the clergy, family members, and the congregation.

- Master Twsoundsoff

# **Chapter 8**

## Colors

Both individual Jedi and the community as a whole communicate to each other in a common language of symbols or signs which reflect the significance of the seasons, days, feast days and special events. From the beginning of time colours have always been a strongly expressive and reflective form of communication (mood, intention, reverence, worship, experience) in both secular and ecclesial worlds. And yet because of the experiential, cultural and social diversity of the individual colours have no one meaning, a cause for a great deal of misunderstanding. The following colour scheme is a close as is possible reflection of the Jedi spirituality.

White- a symbol of light, typical for innocence and purity, joy and glory.

Red- a symbol of fire and blood, associated with burning charity and a martyrs' sacrifice.

Green- a symbol typical for vegetation, associated with the hope of eternal life.

Violet- a sombre symbol of the mortified, associated with affliction and melancholy.

Black- a universal symbol of mourning, associated with the sorrow of death and the tomb.

Brown- a familiar symbol for the earth, associated with fertility, stability and knowledge.

Blue- a calming symbol of endless skies, associated with peace and conservative unity.

Gold- a noble symbol of Kings, associated with the purity of the sun which gladdens the heart.

## **Chapter 9**

### Artifacts

## Apparel

1. Jedi apparel (long, flowing robes, including an over-tunic, an under-tunic, a cloak or outer robe with a hood, and a tabard) remind much of the Jedi monastic life\_\_style\_\_ of community, devotion, commitment, humility and modesty.

2. These garments come in a myriad of earth colours (various browns or even black), with a utility belt for carrying purposes, most notably being the lightsaber. Boots, loose-fitting pants and a cloak typically accompanied the garment.

3. Their unassumingness is nothing else than an outward sign of an inward detachment and service in the Force.

4. On a practical side they provided their wearers with great room for movement and by means of the discomfort of their coarseness provided their wearers with an added incentive to focus on the Force.

5. The importance of Jedi apparel...

-5.1. We need it. We need to walk inside clothes which gently prods us along our promises.

-5.2. Clothes express who we really are.

-5.3. Just as we depend on the one Force so do Jedi robes express the basic oneness of our desires. Anything else just isn't simple.

-5.4. Simple regulates the directive in our vocation as Jedi.

-5.5. True. The body is beautiful, wonderfully made and unique to the universe, but we are more interested in developing our subtle spiritual senses which ultimately promotes personal development.

-6. Our community as a group needs identity for belonging.

-7. We need to provide a tangible correlation between who we are and how we are. We make the robes and they make us.

-8. We shed the attire of personal interest for that that of service for others.

-9. As a standard it saves precious time for more important issues.

-10. From the beginning, the ritualistic dressing in these robes focuses the mind of of a Jedi.

-11. Jedi robes witness to the world that there is always an alternative.

-12. We are a tax-free organisation and need to earn it. We beg on behalf of others. To do otherwise is to deceive the poor, the donors and ourselves.

-13. We have to constantly keep in mind where we are heading for. Our robes help to discern the company we choose. Where there is a secret there is a lie.

-14. Our decorum is a start to inform the soul in manners and posture.

-15. The clothing rituals in the Rule are essential to effect the renunciation of worldly ways and accept the

Jedi-way-of-life.

- 16. The Jedi sub-culture begs a dress code for liturgy, celebration and to keep things at a minimum.
- 17. The Jedi Doctrine needs to be implemented. The Jedi is placed into the "real world" in her/his robes and not hidden like a lamp under a cloth.
- 18. Jedi robes help to jump having to connect with the Force through a forest of "real world" views and connect directly.
- 19. Every day attire costs both spiritually and materially.
- 20. If the Jedi means to seek the Force, deny the self then what better way than to take up a "second skin" which looks the same no matter what the body.
- 21. We were born naked and shall return naked so what better start for detachment regarding our Jedi robes.

### LIGHT SABER

1. Traditional weapon of the Jedi.
2. Tradition asks that one is constructed before a Jedi becomes a Knight, and serves ultimately as a life long friend.

"The crystal is the heart of the blade.  
The heart is the crystal of the Jedi.  
The Jedi is the crystal of the Force.  
The Force is the blade of the heart.  
All are intertwined.  
The crystal, the blade, the Jedi.  
You are one."

3. The ceremonial saber/hilt is usually mounted/worn on the belt itself as well - this symbolises the unity and bond of the saber to the knight - the unity (or indeed the soul) of the Knights, & their commitment to the oath and teachings, as said 'mind, body, spirit' are united and become an insuperable part of the knight and saber.
4. When not held in the hand (a physical union) the hilt is worn on the belt (the symbolic union)

### THE JEDI BELT

When a Jedi knight girds her/himself with the belt, s/he girds her/himself with the purity of purpose as dictated in the UJFA precepts. Tightening the belt does not only reflect the sacrifice of duty but also the fortification provided by Jedi community, Jedi teachings and our Jedi Masters. When first put on in the knighting ceremony it marks a new beginning or rebirth as a new person of which we are reminded every day we wear it thereafter. It encompasses each Jedi Knight in the entirety of her/his person (in body, mind and spirit).



## THE TABARDS

The Tabards represent the burden of a Knight where ever s/he may be, dispensing justice tempered with mercy, protecting the weak, defending the defenseless, and helping the needy.

## THE JEDI HOOD OR COWL

The Jedi cowl or hood is depicted as a characteristic element of Jedi apparel. Apart from its obvious practical uses (keeping warm in the winter and cool in the summer) it also signifies a Jedi's decision in favour of an Oath, Code, Tenet and ethical Teachings to a "worldly" way of life. The cowl or hood symbolises his or her closing eyes and ears, an action of grounding or centering, and focusing on the living Force of creation. Taking the cowl or hood means taking on the Jedi way of life.

## THE ALTAR

1. The altar acts as a point of focus for \_\_object\_\_s which have a deliberate symbolism or ceremonies to be performed.
2. The altar enhances a ceremony's significance (hence sacredness) for the individual Jedi or Temple.

## ETERNAL FLAME

1. An eternal flame is a flame or torch that burns constantly.
2. It is symbolic of the eternal nature of the Force. The Force being "omnipresent", everywhere at all times.
3. It represents the glorification of the Force by the Jedi of TOTJO.
4. It is also a remembrance to the eternal spirits of the deceased who have joined the Force in the netherworld.

"The pyre is the end for which all true Jedi are destined..."

- Mace Windu

## THE CANDLE

1. Candles play a central part in all cultures, they are an important \_\_link\_\_ to our past.
2. They radiate messages of romance, passion, security, warmth, hope, spirituality, mystery, and focus.
3. As in all religions candles their solitary flame and aura of light is important to Jediism.
4. They communicates beyond words, reaching into the depth of our very souls.
5. They illuminate, invigorate, inspire, whisper, comfort and connect.
6. The lit candles breaks darkness, a symbol of the life giving power of the Force.
7. The candle unites Jedi to people of all faiths and cultures.

8. They celebrate the individual and community at the same time.
9. Just as is the nature of the Force the candle unites both the spiritual and material worlds.

### STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

1. These may be non-figurative or figurative; may incorporate narratives drawn from literature, history; may represent Masters, Clergy, patrons, symbolic motifs, or Characters. Windows within a building may be thematic for the Temple/Church or the area in which they are in.
2. The dark interior being illuminated by the sun light through these windows is a good reflection of our Doctrine. Love and Peace are central to our lives; we are in touch with the Living Force; we maintain a clear mind; the design of the Living Force of Creation... .
3. The combination of a myriad of colours reflects how the multiplicity of Jediism and the cultures it touches (nations, religions, mentalities, races... ) are touched by the one and same Force.

### JEDI HOLOCRON

1. Holocrons are meant as teaching devices, sources of Jedi history and knowledge. They were also not intended as a one way source of information but enabled interactive learning, never revealing more than the Jedi could take or was prepared to take.
2. With a few exceptions Jedi Holocrons are generally cubic in shape, and easy to hold in the hand.
3. As all of our Universe so does the Holocron depend on the Force to connect.
4. Holocrons can be an object of personal or community focus, ideal for meditation.
5. As a symbol for all that is Jedi it contains a copy of UJFA Code, Ethics, Tenet, Oaths and is present in all Temples for all to see set behind the Altar. For it is out of these through the power of the Force that the Jedi are called to be Jedi, can celebrate Jedi and bring Jedi

# **Chapter 10**

## Symbols

### **TOTJO SYMBOL**

1. The orthodox Jedi Code (5 star)
2. 16 basic teachings of the Jedi (inner 16 star)
3. The interdependence of Light and Dark- A Jediist is in harmony with the living Force of Creation (The Force)

### **MTFBWY**

#### **MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU**

1. A wish of good luck
2. Sending out on a mission with a blessing
3. Affirmation of community
4. Reminder of the Jedi way
5. A symbol of identity
6. Act of faith

# **Chapter 11**

## Daily Practices

Any company, hospital, sports club... never mind military wo(man) will concede that communication on any "battlefield" where a job has to be done is the key to victory. Without communication between the master mind and its front line is doomed from the very start. We all need to know in the heat of the moment what has to be done. We also need to be sure in those testing moments of the availability of necessary resources and support from those minds in order to achieve our common objectives.

The same "rules" so to say of communication apply to our spirituality as Jedi. The Force gives us its revelation through the Doctrine, the words spoken at TOTJO, our personal experiences, literature... . The Force shows us what to do and how to do it. The Force spells out our mission and purpose. The Force defines our personal and community goals and objectives in life. In order to understand and enable communication with that same Force we have to read that Doctrine or piece of literature, listen to our Brothers and Sisters, sit down and take quality time, think and reflect, meditate on their application for our lives, we have to get to know what we are meant to become, and how we are to go about it. And even if we know what we still have to remain in touch with that same Force to seek clarification about our specific mission in life, to haggle over the difficulties and challenges we are experiencing, and to request help for ourselves and others when we need it. That is where daily practice comes into play. It is our part in a conversation, not a one time thing but time and time again on a day to day basis. We need the Force to know we are not alone and the Force needs us to listen in order to be able "to breath" so to say.

## **Meditation**

All too often history has shown how spiritual life was kept separate from secular life. For the so called "plebs" spiritual life was reduced to the weekly obligation of going to either Church or Temple, and in the remaining time while they got on with their daily chores the so called "religious" would as their representatives enter into communication with the divine.

Our awareness of individuality and its responsibilities has led to a change in attitude as far as this is concerned. But even though there is a growing awareness that life itself is sacred no matter what form it takes we are experiencing a global phenomenon of stress and a growing lack of time. We are increasingly loosing focus of our spiritual centre. We are becoming less and less in touch with ourselves.

TOTJO is a good example however of new possibilities that globalisation brings with it. Jedi all over the world have many options available to them for spiritual and religious \_expression\_ in a world that is growing in its challenges and increasingly faster paced. Modern life which has become more challenging, more demanding and faster paced as a result provokes more depressions and despair. Through Jedi an ear has been opened in a deaf world, a time corridor in a full time table, a moment of silence in a crescendo of noise. As a part of this world and in our duty as examples to this world we have to learn to answer to this challenge.

None other than daily meditation is one of the greatest answers to this, a help in growing into an awareness of spiritual truths in all aspects of our daily lives. Daily meditation is a process which can allow you learn to walk once again at your own peace, and invites others to walk along side of you. All you need is to take as much as five or ten minutes on a day to day basis.

Important is the consistency with which it is done, not immediate results or how long you managed or or. To prevent hindrances such as duties, visitors, appointment or even just plain laziness from getting in the way it may make things easier to do this at a particular time. And just as you could create this sacred time you may find it helpful to create a sacred space, an altar or corner. This helps the meditator to feel physically how s/he is entering the spiritual world. There is also a truth about a room reflecting the inner condition of its owner, so try to keep it free from clutter or distraction.

We are Jedi of the Force, for the Force and with the Force in a real world. The Force communicates with us in so many ways which need to be understood. Daily meditation can help us to connect with our own unique essence, and bring that forth into the world for the betterment of all of humanity.

## **Prayer**

Daily prayer can even change the life of a Jedi, as it can the people we minister to in services. Through daily prayer we can develop an increasing more familiar and intimate relationship with the sometimes apparently abstract Force. In the modern day prayer is all too often shunned as a waste of time and left to children. If we are prepared to invest time and energy following what's going on in TV then there is no real reason for you not to try prayer.

The form of prayer is also manifold. Even our work in daily life can be considered prayer, for when we do anything out of a spirit of love, awareness and intention it is a kind of prayer. This does however not exclude the necessity of setting times out in the day for heart prayers. The way we use our time is the surest sign of our priorities. What are my priorities? Do I spend time on people, or on things? Do I spend time with the ones I love, including the Force?

Like meditation prayer is also conversation and more. It involves opening up to the infinite with your innermost secrets, hopes or desires. Developing a regular prayer life can change you but it is definitely a habit which is not easy to start. Prayer can therefore be described as the lifting up of the mind and heart to the Force. So you not only get the opportunity to deepen your relationship to the Force but begin to understand the needs of your neighbour as well as understanding more and more yourself.

# **Chapter 12**

## Gestures and Postures



Just as in everyday behavioural conditioning both religious and liturgical behaviour are also learned through enculturation and association. Right from childhood we take on postures and gestures by imitating others, because we were told to do so, or because we were taught so. With time however the physical and emotional dimensions of what we do takes on form through personal experience, repetition and emotional memory. Images, ideas, emotional associations and physical associations become very present in our gestures and postures. Our gestures and postures express an inner attitude or condition, and in the case of our Jediist beliefs they correspond to our particular concept of the Force. A full prostration for example can express our submission to the Force, or the lotus posture communicates our centering on the inner voice, self or Force. All of these are trained embodied experiences where the outer form corresponds with the inner state. Slowly a sacred language becomes interwoven into every fiber of our being.

## **Chapter 13**

### Holy Orders

## HOLY ORDERS- TERMINOLOGY

Holy Orders of TOTJO are conferred in three ranks: bishops, priests, and deacons.

Bishops (Greek: episcopoi) are those who have care of multiple congregations and have the task of appointing, ordaining, and disciplining priests and deacons.

Priests (Greek: presbuteroi) are also known as "presbyters" or "elders." In fact, the English term "priest" is simply a contraction of the Greek word "presbuteros." They have the responsibility of teaching, governing, and performing the sacraments in a given congregation. 5:14-15).

Deacons (Greek: diakonoi) are the assistants of the bishops and have the task of teaching and administering certain church functions, such as the distribution of food.

"Holy" is from the Greek word that means "separated," and in this case it means consecrated to the Force, or set apart for a sacred purpose.

"Orders" derives from a term used in ancient Rome to refer to a specific group of persons such as a governing body. Members are ordained, or incorporated into this body; they enter the order.

## HOLY ORDERS- LEGALITY & VALIDITY

A. Inhibiting factors to the legality of a person's ministry:

1. the application and acceptance of ministry with the full knowledge of being subject to any criminal conviction
2. the perpetration of a state defined criminal action posterior to ordination
3. the execution of an ordination without confirmation from the Cardinal Bishop
4. A medical attest revoking the sound-mindedness of the ordained in question

B. The legality of ministry is very much distinct to and in no way contradicts the quality or validity of that very ministry

## HOLY ORDERS- TOTJO

- There are 5 forms of established clergy within the Order.
- To achieve the next ministry the previous one has to be attained.

THE FOLLOWING REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 6 MONTHS MEMBERSHIP (PREREQUISITE BEING THE OATH) ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE TRAINING

- Commissioned Minister - this is given to a member for a special one time event like conducting the marriage of a friend or for a limited mission. Revocable.

- Licensed Minister - the powers of an ordained minister but not ordained and this can be revoked. These also cannot take confession under the seal recognized by law (Can be shared by Initiates or Apprentices). These Ministers carry the \_title\_ of Rev. but not Ordained Clerical Person (OCP) at the end of their names.

THE FOLLOWING REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 12 MONTHS MEMBERSHIP (PREREQUISITE BEING THE OATH) ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE TRAINING

- Deacon, Ordained Minister- Holy Orders and is considered licit (untouchable in nature) but can be legally revoked (the commission can be revoked). A Deacon cannot not take confession but act as a spiritual counselor among other things (Can be shared by Knights, Sr. Knights, Masters or Grand Masters). These ministers carry the \_title\_ of Rev. and OCP at the end of their names.

- Priest, Ordained Minister- Holy Orders and is considered licit (untouchable in nature) but can be legally revoked (the commission can be revoked). An ordained minister may take a confession under the seal recognized by law and act as a spiritual counselor among other things. (Can be shared by Knights, Sr. Knights or Masters). These Ministers carry the \_\_\_title\_\_\_ Rev. and OCP at the end of their names.

- Bishop, Ordained Minister - Holy Orders and is considered licit (untouchable in nature) but can be legally revoked (the commission can be revoked). The fullness of holy orders and the only clergy who can ordain (and only with commission from TOTJO)! (Can be shared by Knights, Sr. Knights or Masters). These Ministers carry the \_title\_ Most Rev. and OCP at the end of their names.

Auxiliary-/Arch-/Cardinal-Bishops are not \_title\_s of ordination but posts of duty or commissions, and are therefore revocable.

## **HOLY ORDERS- COMMISSION**

- Jurisdiction- These \_title\_s are bestowed upon those Bishops who serve in a Jurisdictional capacity over some aspect of the Order. While the Holy Orders of these persons are those of a Bishop: Arch-Bishops carry the responsibility of jurisdiction over the Rites ( Jediism Rite; Abrahamic Rite; Buddhism Rite; Pagan Rite\*) as well as over positions such as Chaplain, Defender of the Faith, Clergy and Canon Law or Sergeant at Arms. Auxiliary Bishops assist and in the case of absence represent their respective jurisdictional Arch Bishop. Arch- Bishops share in the jurisdictional responsibilities of their Cardinals.

\*Since the Humanism Rite is secular in nature it cannot be guided by Clergy.

- Ranking - The \_title\_ of Cardinal Bishop can be bestowed upon the leading members and senior Pastors of the Order. They form part of a body called the College of Cardinals (CoC). These persons carry the responsibilities as moral leaders of the community and as servants of the servants of the Force. Cardinal Bishop is the highest clerical administrative rank in the Order. Just as the Arch- Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops, Cardinals are also not subject to ordination. Clerically they are nothing more nor less than Bishops.

## **Patrons: Christian**

## **BROTHER ROGER OF TAIZE**

He wanted to help refugees of the war, just like his grandmother had done some 25 years earlier. So he moved from Switzerland to France to a little village known as Taiz in the south of Burgundy. Along with his sister, he offered a place of food, shelter, safety and compassion for those who managed to escape the reach of Nazi Germany. This conviction to help the needy grew out of his strong faith.

Understanding that many who sought refuge in Taiz were Jews or agnostics, he never prayed or worshipped in front of his guests. Instead he opted to go into the woods alone to pray and sing.

In the autumn of 1942, his little refugee community was discovered and all involved were advised to flee.

However, he was able to return to his community in 1944 – this time with companions.

After the war, a local man created an association to care for young boys orphaned by the war. The long-term mission of Taiz had begun to take shape. The community was committed to serving the “least of these” in whatever way possible.

On Easter Sunday, 1949, the first brothers took the vows of celibacy, material and spiritual sharing and to a great simplicity of life. The monastic community of Taiz was born. And Brother Roger led them.

Since then, the Taiz monastic community – along with the Sisters of Saint Andrew – has welcomed and served all who traveled to the countryside of France to connect with God and with other pilgrims from all over the world. Thousands of people between the ages of 17-30 travel to Taiz each year.

As an ecumenical community, Taiz (with Catholic brothers, some Protestant brothers and actively seeking Orthodox brothers) has sought to assist the Church Universal in reconnecting with itself. This is evidenced not only in the mission work done all over the world (specifically Africa, Asia and South America), but even in its church building – the Church of Reconciliation.

I visited Taiz in July of 2001 with a group of youth and young adults from the north Texas area. My time there changed me forever. Not only have I learned the importance of contemplative study and solitary prayer – I have a better view of global Christianity.

During each evening prayer, Brother Roger would pray over those sitting around him (he would move around the large sanctuary throughout the week). I could feel the love of Christ emanating from his face as he prayed over me. I never knew him, but I know he was a great man.

Brother Roger was a close friend of Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa, the latter of which he co-authored a handful of books. Brother Roger was a man of peace fighting for peace.

Brother Roger died last night in a place he loved dearly – the sanctuary of the Church of Reconciliation. He died surrounded by the Community of Brothers and many pilgrims to Taiz. Despite his recent illnesses, he did not die peacefully.

Brother Roger was stabbed to death by a woman described as “probably mentally disturbed” during evening prayer on August 16, 2005.

This prayer was offered at morning prayer on August 17th:

“Christ of compassion, you enable us to be in communion with those who have gone before us, and who can remain so close to us. We confide into your hands our Brother Roger. He already contemplates the invisible. In his footsteps, you are preparing us to welcome a radiance of your brightness.”

The global Church has lost a great hero of the Faith. The global poor have lost an important advocate. The community of Taiz lost its founding leader. Heaven has gained a favorite son.

## **MARTIN LUTHER**

"I would never have thought that such a storm would rise from Rome over one simple scrap of paper..."  
(Martin Luther)

Few if any men have changed the course of history like Martin Luther. In less than ten years, this fevered

German monk plunged a knife into the heart of an empire that had ruled for a thousand years, and set in motion a train of revolution, war and conflict that would reshape Western civilization, and lift it out of the Dark Ages.

Luther's is a drama that still resonates half a millennium on. It's an epic tale that stretches from the gilded corridors of the Vatican to the weathered church door of a small South German town; from the barbarous pyres of heretics to the technological triumph of printing. It is the story of the birth of the modern age, of the collapse of medieval feudalism, and the first shaping of ideals of freedom and liberty that lie at the heart of the 21st century.

But this is also an intensely human tale, a story that hurtles from the depths of despair to the heights of triumph and back again. This is the story of a man who ultimately found himself a lightning conductor of history, crackling with forces he could not quite comprehend or control.

For Luther, in a life full of irony, would find himself overwhelmed by his own achievements. As his followers sought to build a new and just Europe around him, he could only turn on them in frustration, declaring that his - and their - only goal should be Heaven.

Martin Luther stands as a hero, the man who built the bridge between the two halves of the last millennium, the Medieval and the Modern. His tragedy was that he would never find the courage to cross it himself.

Martin Luther was born into a world dominated by the Catholic Church, which holds spiritual dominion over all the nations of Europe. For the keenly spiritual Luther, the Church's promise of salvation is irresistible - caught in a thunderstorm, terrified by the possibility of imminent death, he vows to become a monk.

Selling indulgences  
Selling indulgences

But after entering the monastery, Luther becomes increasingly doubtful that the Church can actually offer him salvation at all. His views crystallize even further with a trip to Rome, where he finds that the capital of Catholicism is swamped in corruption.

Wracked by despair, Luther finally finds release in the pages of the Bible, when he discovers that it is not the Church, but his own individual faith that will guarantee his salvation.

With this revelation, he turns on the Church, attacking its practice of selling Indulgences in the famous 95 Theses. The key points of Luther's theses were simple, but devastating: a criticism of the Pope's purpose in raising the money, "he is richer than Croesus, he would do better to sell St Peter's and give the money to the poor people...", and a straightforward concern for his flock, "indulgences are most pernicious because they induce complacency and thereby imperil salvation".

Luther was not only a revolutionary thinker, he would also benefit from a revolutionary technology: the newly invented machinery of printing. A single pamphlet would be carried from one town to another, where it would be duplicated in a further print run of thousands. Within three months, all Europe was awash with copies of Luther's 95 Theses.

Martin Luther had inadvertently chosen unavoidable conflict with what was the most powerful institution of the day, the Catholic Church.

"Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me, Amen..." (Martin Luther)

When an obscure monk named Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses - 95 stinging rebukes - attacking the mighty Catholic Church, and its head, Pope Leo X to the door of Wittenberg Cathedral he unleashed a tornado.

It was a hurricane of violence and revolution that raged across Europe, and changed the face of a continent forever.

The Catholic Church brought all its considerable power to bear to try and muzzle Luther, including accusations of heresy and excommunication. But protected by his local ruler, Frederick the Wise, Luther continued to write ever more radical critiques of the Church, and to develop a whole new system of faith, one that puts the freedom of the individual believer above the rituals of the Church.

His ideas spread like wildfire, aided by the newly invented printing press. Finally he's called before the German imperial parliament, in the city of Worms, and told he must recant. Risking torture and execution, Luther nevertheless refused and proclaimed his inalienable right to believe what he wished.

Convinced he would not survive the trip to Worms but with absolute faith he declared, "I am not afraid, for God's Will will (sic) be done, and I rejoice to suffer in so noble a cause."

Diet of Worms

Diet of Worms

His stand became a legend that then inspired a continent-wide revolution, overturning the thousand-year old domination of the Church. But as the reformation expanded into a movement for social freedom, Luther found himself overwhelmed by the pace of change. His theological reformation had become a social revolution.

The epicenter of reform now moved swiftly away from Germany to Switzerland and Holland where Calvin and Knox founded societies \_\_base\_\_d on Luther's principles. To England, where it would take a bloody civil war before Cromwell could establish his Protestant democratic state and finally, to the newly discovered lands of America, where the Pilgrim Fathers would found their new nation on Luther's foundations of religious freedom.

But Luther never left his province in Germany again. Instead he married, an ex-nun named Katharine von Bora, whom he had helped to escape from her nunnery and they had a large family together, Luther was able to devote himself to the simpler pleasures of life, gardening, music and of course, writing.

Luther finally died in the year 1543, seized by a crippling heart attack but he held onto his righteousness and rage until the very end.

"When I die, I want to be a ghost...So I can continue to pester the bishops, priests and godless monks until that they have more trouble with a dead Luther than they could have had before with a thousand living ones."

## **ARCH-BISHOP OSCAR ROMERO**

"I have often been threatened with death," Archbishop Oscar Romero told a Guatemalan reporter two weeks before his assassination on March 24, 1980. "If they kill me, I shall arise in the Salvadoran people. If the threats come to be fulfilled, from this moment I offer my blood to God for the redemption and resurrection of El Salvador. Let my blood be a seed of freedom and the sign that hope will soon be

reality."

Oscar Romero was killed twenty-five years ago today, but he lives on in El Salvador, Latin America and even in the United States, wherever people give their lives in the nonviolent struggle for justice and peace. He gave his life for that struggle in the hope that the outcome was inevitable, that justice would be done, that war would be abolished, that truth will overcome, and that love and life are stronger than hate and death.

Romero's journey took him from the spoiled life of a quiet, conservative pious cleric whose silence blessed decades of poverty into a prophet of justice, "the voice of the voiceless" in war-torn, politically explosive El Salvador. He represented no political party or ideology, only the suffering people of El Salvador, and became a stunning sign of God's active presence in the world, of the struggle for justice itself.

After his friend Jesuit priest Rutilio Grande was brutally killed for speaking out against injustice on March 12, 1977, Romero was transformed overnight into one of the world's great champions for the poor and oppressed. At the local mass the next day, Romero preached a sermon that stunned El Salvador. Like the sermons of Martin Luther King, Jr., Romero defended the work of Grande, demanded justice for the poor, and called everyone to take up Grande's prophetic stand for justice. In protest against the government's suspected participation in the murders, Romero closed the parish schools for three days and canceled all masses in the country the following week. Over one hundred thousand people attended the Mass at the Cathedral in a bold call for justice. While the government and military were concerned, the campesinos were inspired to stand up for a new El Salvador.

As more priests and church workers were assassinated, Romero spoke out more intensely, even publicly criticizing the president on several occasions. As the government death squads began to take over villages, attack churches, and massacre campesinos, Romero's protest became loud. In the growing climate of fear and war, his word of truth in a culture of violence and lies was nothing less than a subversive act of nonviolent civil disobedience.

Within a period of months, everywhere Romero went he was greeted with applause. His Sunday homilies were broadcast nationwide on live radio and heard by nearly everyone in the country. Letters poured in from every village, thanking him for his prophetic voice and confessing their own new found courage.

As Romero gained strength in his role as spokesperson for justice and truth, and as he exhorted the Salvadoran people to the nonviolent struggle for justice and peace, he never lost his simple faith and pious devotion. From this devotional piety which he shared with all Salvadorans, he paved a new way into active Gospel peacemaking. He preached about God's preferential option for the poor, justice and peace. In his opposition to the government's silence, he refused to attend the inauguration of the new Salvadoran president. The church, he announced, is "not to be measured by the government's support but rather by its own authenticity, its evangelical spirit of prayer, trust, sincerity and justice, its opposition to abuses."

As more and more people were arrested, tortured, disappeared and murdered, Romero made two prophetic institutional decisions which stand out for their rare Gospel vision. First, on Easter Monday, 1978, he opened the seminary in downtown San Salvador to all displaced victims of violence. Hundreds of homeless, hungry and brutalized people moved into the seminary, transforming the quiet religious retreat into a crowded, noisy shelter, make-shift hospital, and playground. Second, he stopped construction on the Cathedral until, he said, when justice and peace are established. When the war was over and the hungry were fed, he announced, then we can resume building our cathedral. Both moves were unprecedented and historic and cast judgment on the Salvadoran government.

Romero's preaching escalated each month to new biblical heights. "Like a voice crying in the desert," he said, "we must continually say No to violence and Yes to peace." His August 1978 pastoral letter outlined the evils of "institutional violence" and repression, and advocated "the power of nonviolence that today has conspicuous students and followers. The counsel of the Gospel to turn the other cheek to an unjust aggressor, far from being passive or cowardly," he wrote, "shows great moral force that leaves the aggressor morally overcome and humiliated. The Christian always prefers peace to war."

Romero lived simply in a three room hermitage on the grounds of a hospital run by a community of nuns. He associated on a daily basis with hundreds of the poorest of the poor. He traveled the countryside



constantly, and assisted those who suffered most. He frequently commented that his duty as pastor had become the task of claiming the dead bodies of priests and campesinos and to defend the poor by calling for an end to the killing. One Salvadoran told me, on one of my many visits to El Salvador, how Romero drove out whenever necessary to a large garbage dump where bodies were often discarded by the government death squads. He looked among the trash and the dead bodies for relatives of family members whom he accompanied. "These days I walk the roads gathering up dead friends, listening to widows and orphans, and trying to spread hope," he said.

His last few Sunday sermons in late 1979 and early 1980 issued strong calls for conversion to justice and bold denunciations of the daily massacres and assassinations. His plea to the wealthy elite who supported the death squads was pointed and prophetic. "To those who bear in their hands or in their conscience, the burden of bloodshed, of outrages, of the victimized, innocent or guilty, but still victimized in their human dignity, I say: Be converted. You cannot find God on the path of torture. God is found on the way of justice, conversion and truth."

Every day, Romero took time to speak with dozens of persons threatened by government death squads. People came to him to ask for the help or protection, to complain about harassment or murders, or to find some guidance and support in their time of grief and struggle. Romero received and listened to everyone of them. His prophetic voice became stronger and angrier as he learned of their pain and suffering. In February 1980, when Romero heard that President Jimmy Carter was considering sending millions of dollars a day in military aid to El Salvador, Romero was shocked. Deeply distressed, he wrote a long public letter to Carter, asking the United States to cancel all military aid. Carter never responded to Romero, and sent the aid.

On March 23, Romero exploded with his most direct appeal to the members of the armed forces:

"I would like to make an appeal in a special way to the men of the army, to the police, to those in the barracks. Brothers, you are part of our own people. You kill your own campesino brothers and sisters. And before an order to kill that a man may give, the law of God must prevail that says: Thou shalt not kill! No soldier is obliged to obey an order against the law of God. No one has to fulfill an immoral law. It is time to recover your consciences and to obey your consciences rather than the orders of sin. The church, defender of the rights of God, of the law of God, of human dignity, the dignity of the person, cannot remain silent before such abomination. We want the government to take seriously that reforms are worth nothing when they come about stained with so much blood. In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose laments rise to heaven each day more tumultuously, I beg you, I ask you, I order you in the name of God: Stop the repression!"

The next day, March 24, 1980, Romero presided at a special evening mass in the chapel of the hospital compound where he lived, in honor of someone who had died one year before. He read from John's Gospel: "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains only a grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn. 12:23-26). Then he preached about the need to give one's life for others as Christ did. Just as he concluded his sermon, he was shot in the heart by a man standing in the back of the church. Romero fell behind the altar and collapsed at the foot of a huge crucifix depicting a bloody and bruised Christ. Blood covered Romero's vestments and the floor of the church, and he gasped for breath. He died within minutes.

Romero's funeral was the largest demonstration in Salvadoran history, some say in the history of Latin America. The government was so afraid that they threw bombs into the crowd and opened fire, killing some thirty people and injuring hundreds. The funeral Mass was never completed and Romero was hastily buried.

Today, we remember Oscar Romero as a saint and a martyr, but also as a prophet of justice, a friend of the poor, and a peacemaker. He became the martyred shepherd of the Third World, the spokesperson of the poor and oppressed, not only of El Salvador, but all of Latin America, calling us all to conversion, disarmament, and justice.

Romero calls us to live in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, to think with them, feel with them, walk with them, stand with them, and become one with them. From that preferential solidarity, he summons us to join his prophetic pursuit of justice.

Romero denounced violence on all sides and called for a new culture of justice and peace where there is no more killing, no more hunger, no more bombings, no more poverty, and no more guns. He said the most important task we can undertake in a culture of war is to publicly announce the good news of peace, even if that announcement disrupts our lives, even costs us our lives.

## **LEONARDO BOFF**

Leonardo Boff has been preaching an activist gospel in Brazil for decades. Although no longer a priest, Boff is still a theologian and an active member of a Christian community in Brazil. He was more or less forced out nearly four years ago after a battle with the Vatican over his penchant for mixing politics with religion.

Boff says the Catholic Church is becoming increasingly irrelevant to the poor. The people he works with now are committed to building a better world not because they are Christians but because they are profoundly human. The poor in Brazil are now finding a vision of social justice and community in the 'comunidades de base' or 'base Christian Communities'. There are more than 100,000 of these grassroots Christian groups in Brazil which attempt to fuse the teachings of Christ with a liberating social gospel.

Boff believes these are the places where liberation theology is lived concretely and where the political dimensions of a liberating faith come into play. He says that the poor must understand that poverty is not natural. The 'comunidades de base' continue to spawn leaders who work on behalf of the poor - in trade unions, political parties and in community organizations.

Boff admits the world has changed dramatically since the birth of liberation theology 20 years ago in Latin America. He says that today the problem is no longer marginalization of the poor but complete exclusion. The question now is how to survive. That's why liberation theology deals with fundamental issues like work, health, food, and shelter.

Economic globalization and the spread of poverty is of particular concern to Boff, who says the poor are much worse off today than 30 or 40 years ago. He says that in Brazil the excluded don't believe in the old myths of development anymore. They feel that development has been at their cost and not for their benefit. "Brazil has 150 million inhabitants, and for a third of them the system functions well, but for the other 100 million it is a disaster."

The ex-cleric is especially attuned to the ecological costs of industrial development. "The earth has arrived at the limits of its sustainability. Our task is not to create sustainable development, but a sustainable society - human beings and nature together."

In the meantime, Boff argues, the first step toward change is for the poor to take charge of their own lives. "The institutional Church counts on the support of the economic and political powers." As far as Boff is concerned, "the Pope's approach to the world is feudalistic. He wants a Church of the rich for the poor, but not with the poor."

## **MOTHER TERESA**

Poverty is a global problem in the world today against which one woman dared to confront. She inspired millions through her deeds and words. She had the courage to care for those who had been left in the dark by the world. She has left a lasting mark on this world and has changed it for the better. She is a hero. She is Mother Teresa. Some of the qualities of being a hero are bravery, generosity, selflessness, and determination. Mother Teresa embodied these in every way.

At the age of 17, Mother Teresa felt as though she had a calling to be a Catholic missionary nun. She wanted to help the world. She took her vows as a Sister of Loretto, an Irish order that worked in India. She took the name of Teresa at her vocation. While in India she contracted tuberculosis. She was sent to Darjeeling in 1946 to rest and recuperate. While getting on the train to go to Darjeeling she heard a calling from God. This calling told her to leave the convent and live amongst the poor while helping them. In 1948 she was granted permission to leave the convent and begin her work.

She began her work in the slums by teaching at a school. She taught the children the things she knew. She began learning about medicine on her own and put it to use by treating the poor for their sicknesses. When her former colleagues heard of her work, they left the convent and joined her. They rescued those who had been rejected by the health care system and treated them themselves. They rented a room to help the people who were left to die on the streets of Calcutta. The group was soon known as the Missionaries of Charity. With this group she aided the dying and sick at their last moments, trying to comfort them so they could have a peaceful death.

She and her sisters opened homes and orphanages to help the care for the sick at their dying moments. They also saved many lives as well. She opened orphanages for the homeless children that lived on the streets of Calcutta. Since then, more orphanages and homes for the sick have been opened around the world. She saw everyone as being a beautiful person and never left anyone behind. She tried with all of her heart to end the poverty and sickness, starting in the slums of Calcutta and working her way around the world. She was awarded many prizes and awards for her amazing work including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

At the worst of times she was able to see the best in people. In poor health, due to a sicknesses she had caught from those she helped, she never gave up on the goals she had. She wanted to help those who had been abandoned by the world. She was humble, brave, and an all-out amazing human being. She was able to bring light into the eyes of those whose light had been put out. She was able to see beauty in the poorest of the poor. With all of her effort she was able to make the lives of many, better. She was able to make the world a better place and her legacy of goodness is still being carried out today by the Missionaries of Charity. All the work she did not go to waste after her death. Her work is still being spread by all those inspired by her goodness. Today her missionaries and words of goodness have spread through out the world and will continue to live on.

## **MARTIN SHEEN**

Martin Sheen is a pacifist, a social and political activist who has not shied away from putting his body on the front lines, and a devout Roman Catholic. After rediscovering his faith twenty years ago, he began his activist work in earnest. "I learned I had to stand for something so I could stand to be me," he said as we talked.

The star of *The West Wing* and a winner of a Golden Globe award for his role on that show, where he plays U.S. President Josiah Bartlet, Sheen has used his fame to call attention to many causes. Recently, he was one of the most visible celebrities against the U.S. war against Iraq. "I am not the President. Instead, I hold an even higher office, that of citizen of the United States," Sheen wrote in *The Los Angeles Times* on March 17. "War at this time and in this place is unwelcome, unwise, and simply wrong." Sheen says that NBC executives have told him they're "very uncomfortable" with his activism, although NBC denies this.

Sincere, modest, down to earth, Sheen is a reformed drug and alcohol abuser. The heart attack he endured during the filming of *Apocalypse Now* in the Philippines led him on a four-year spiritual journey that culminated in his return to Catholicism. He carries a rosary in his pocket ("Keeps me from cursing," he says) and is an almost daily communicant. Known worldwide by his stage name, this son of immigrant

parents (his father was from Spain, his mother, Ireland) was baptized Ramòn Estevez. His early years were spent in Dayton, Ohio. The Estevez family was poor and, from an early age, instilled Sheen with strong Catholic morals and working class values. By age nine, he was earning extra money as a golf caddie at a local country club, with hopes of becoming a pro. In 1958, at eighteen, he borrowed bus fare from his local parish priest and headed for New York to pursue his dream of becoming an actor. To avoid ethnic bias in hiring, he chose the first name Martin after a good friend, and Sheen after Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, who had a popular TV show in the 1950s. He remains proud of his Hispanic heritage and is quick to say that he never legally changed his name.

Sheen has created an impressive body of work, from his acclaimed 1964 Broadway performance in *The Subject Was Roses*, through extraordinary parts on television (he starred in the first TV movie about homosexuality, *That Certain Summer*, in 1972, and in *The Execution of Private Slovik* in 1974, and portrayed both Robert F. Kennedy in *The Missiles of October* and JFK in *Kennedy*). His films include *Badlands*, *Catch-22*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Gandhi*, and *Wall Street*. He's been married to his wife, Janet, for more than forty years and is father to four children, Charlie, Emilio, Renee, and Ramòn, all thespians. Over the past twenty years, Sheen has repeatedly protested political repression in Central America, promoted more liberal political asylum policies in the United States, publicized the atrocities of the Salvadoran death squads, supported the closing of the nuclear test sites, and marched with the Reverend Jesse Jackson to protest so-called immigration reform legislation in 1993. He was also an early demonstrator against abuses by the Israeli army in the Occupied Territories in the late 1980s. Sheen was a featured speaker at an anti-war rally January 18 in San Francisco. His stirring oratory was met with thunderous applause. He delivered similar mini-sermons at subsequent peace gatherings in Los Angeles and in San Francisco prior to the bombing of Iraq. For this interview, I met up with him at the annual National Religious Education Congress in Anaheim following his talk before 900 Catholics in a workshop on spirituality and justice.

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR**

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights.

The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" we can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snow capped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"